

Arrival of Lord Soames marks end of Rhodesia's rebellion

Soames, the British Governor of Southern Rhodesia, dined in Salisbury yesterday and said that it marked "the first step" in the country's return to a normal relationship with the international community. He was welcomed by

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, whose Government had voted itself out of office. Mr Ian Smith, the man who led the 14-year rebellion, stayed in his office. In London, Lord Carrington was confident that a ceasefire would be agreed this week.

'First step' in return to international community

Nicholas Ashford

Y. Dec 12
Minutes past two local this afternoon Lord the new British stepped from his VC10 aircraft, Rhodesia's 14-year-long rebellion against the British.

at precise moment the "Rhodesia" state, the British colony of Rhodesia, A change in the British Africa Police band up the opening bars of national anthem while a of honour of black and policemen presented

radio and television set four hundred and Lord Rhodesians that he marked "the first step a country's return to a relationship with the international community".

Soames, wearing a blue a brown turtleneck, was the airport by Mr Robin the British representative, and members of the government of Rhodesia, who a few previously had voted to give out of office by a parliamentary Bill all powers over to the

he head of the welcoming was Bishop Abel Muzorewa, country's Prime Minister, past six months and nine others there to greet him. The acting chief and the commissioner of

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side Government House Soames, the British Governor of Southern Rhodesia, dined in Salisbury yesterday and said that it marked "the first step" in the country's return to a normal relationship with the international community. He was welcomed by

plans revealed for MPs' offices
Latest plans for new offices for 400 MPs, which would cost an estimated £120m, have been approved by the Commons Service Committee. The plans, which would provide a new building for each MP, were approved by a vote of 200 to 100.

no-day protest strike
Unions may strike for the day on May 14, the day of the trade union movement's demonstration of its wrath over the Government's plans for a new law on industrial relations.

uro MPs firm on budget
The EEC Council of Ministers met in Strasbourg in an attempt to disperse the European Parliament from the draft budget for 1980. But the ministers were unable to agree a budget for the Parliament and the European MPs are still apparently determined to reject the budget.

der page 13
On Smoking, from Professor Charles Fletcher, and others. Rhodesia's civil servants, from a lesson on lessons of Rhodesia, from Professor Thomas

Business News, Pages 16-17
Stock Markets: Long dated gilt edged rose slightly, but short term rates fell. Activity centred largely on oil and gold. Elsewhere there were few buyers and the FT index rose 0.7 to 423.6.

15 Engagements
16-17 Features
18 Law Report
19 Sport, pages 8, 9
20 Football: Pottery through to League, Cap semi-final, Bobby Moore appointed manager of Oxford City, Cricket: Suspended sequence for Ian Chappell.

House when Rhodesia declared itself a republic 10 years ago.

The flag was flown in one corner by Sir Humphrey Gibbs, the last British Governor to reside in Government House, and Sir Humphrey, now 77 years old, was among the crowd standing outside the gates which raised a cheer when Lord Soames arrived.

Although Sir Humphrey remained a dignified silence about his feelings, a woman in the crowd was outspoken about Rhodesia's return to legality. "It's great," she said. "For the past 14 years we have been living in an illegal, banana republic."

As his car arrived at the front gates a new Union Jack was broken out on the flagpole in the garden. Later Lord Soames and his wife posed for photographs under the flag, cracking jokes with journalists and showing little sign of being overawed by the scale of the task that lies ahead.

In his broadcast Lord Soames emphasised his desire to work with all Rhodesians. His task was to hold the government of the country in trust while the political leaders sought people's votes in free and fair elections.

Parties must register by end of year
Once the people had made their choice he would hand over his powers to the elected government and depart for London, his task complete.

The first steps towards organising elections have already been taken. As Lord Soames stepped off the air liner this afternoon ordnance came into effect establishing the powers of Sir John Borton, the election commissioner, who arrived on the same aircraft, and making provision for an election council. It was also announced that political parties wishing to take part in the election should register by December 31.

In his address Lord Soames made only a passing reference to the talks still taking place in London on arrangements for a ceasefire. However, he emphasised that the British Government would be working to bring about a ceasefire as soon as possible.

Because of the delay in reaching an agreement, the British Government will be monitoring the ceasefire closely. The British Government will be monitoring the ceasefire closely. The British Government will be monitoring the ceasefire closely.

How will they get a mortgage?
A cartoon illustration showing a man in a suit looking at a document with a large question mark.

Women to row at Henley
Oarswomen and women scullers will be allowed to compete for the first time in Henley Royal Regatta. The Regatta will include exhibition races in coxed fours and double sculls and is a step towards women's open events at Henley.

Bankruptcy case: Jack Trevor Story, the author of *Live Now, Pay Later*, is discharged for the second time.

Post Office trial: Government to end two-year experiment in industrial democracy with union representatives on board.

Civil Service recruiting: Report denies bias in favour of candidates from Oxford and Cambridge.

Colombia: Earthquake devastates town of 7,000 people.



Lord Soames reviewing a guard of honour shortly after his arrival in Salisbury yesterday.

civilian clothes and not military uniform when he alighted from Lord Soames's aircraft.

Although Lord Soames, who will rule by decree, will wield sweeping legislative and executive powers while in office, he will be virtually powerless to decrease the fighting, until agreement has been reached in London.

Mr Caplan Mape, the senior representative of Mr Joshua Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front, expressed disappointment that Lord Soames had failed to take immediate action to lift the ban on Zanu and Zainu, the two parties which comprise the Patriotic Front.

Failure to remove the ban, he said, would lead to a confrontation with the masses of Zimbabwe.

London confidence: Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary, and the British delegation were still confident last night that a ceasefire will be agreed at the constitutional conference this week, despite critical comments from the Patriotic Front's leadership (David Spenser writes).

Describing the British ceasefire proposals as "deficient", Lord Carrington returns from

Mr Robert Mugabe said that the British government was still refusing to accord equal treatment to the Patriotic Front in the arrangements made for the separation of its forces from the Rhodesian side.

British confidence that a settlement is coming, and quickly, is based on comments from governments of front line states closely concerned as well as on private contacts in the conference itself.

Friday likely day for settlement
The feeling is that with the conclusion, pre-election arrangements and ceasefire principles all agreed, and the governor installed in Salisbury, everyone can see that there is no escape from the course which leads to elections and an independent Zimbabwe.

There may be, therefore, as much reason to wish for the Patriotic Front to wish to get involved in the Rhodesian election campaign now as there has been in recent days for it to gain time to infiltrate more of its forces into the country.

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Three officers of the Metropolitan Police were jailed at the Central Criminal Court last night for blackmailing Mrs. Soraya Khashoggi.

They were found guilty of plotting to corruptly obtain £5,000 from Mrs. Khashoggi, former wife of Mr. Adnan Khashoggi, an international financier, to ensure that no criminal proceedings were taken against her.

The three defendants, who had been investigating an allegation that Mrs. Khashoggi committed perjury over the loss of some of her jewellery, were also found guilty of demanding £5,000 from her with menaces.

The former second in command at Heathrow airport, London, Det. Supr. John Collins, aged 50, of Richmond Drive, Shepperton, was jailed for two-and-a-half years. His junior officers, Det. Constable John Follows, aged 32, of Gloucester Road, Bagshot, Surrey, and Det. Constable Bryan Smother, aged 33, of Lynwood Drive, Worcester Park, were each jailed for two years.

The Nato meeting in Brussels tomorrow night or Friday morning, and leaves with the Prime Minister for Washington on Sunday. Accordingly, Friday looks the most likely date for the settlement to be completed, if British optimism about the result is to be fulfilled.

In anticipation, the Final Act of the conference will shortly be circulated to the delegations for their approval, for signature at the concluding ceremony.

There was only brief contact between British officials and the Patriotic Front yesterday. It is understood that the central committee of Zanu and Zainu were both meeting to study the British proposals.

Later last night a Patriotic Front spokesman made it clear that their concern was only with matters of detail on the British maps. In some cases Britain was suggesting that their forces in a forward position should move to a rear base, in some cases people were being asked to move to positions that were not acceptable for reasons of logistics.

Carrington strategy, page 5
Parliamentary report, page 10
Market worth £100m, page 17

Mr William Reed-Mogg, Editor of *The Times*, and Mr Paul Roudledge, its Labour Editor.

Mr Kempster said that when Parliament granted to trade unions immunities from legal actions against them, including suits for libel, there had been no presumption that any golden rule of reciprocity was intended, prohibiting unions from suing.

The Trade Unions and Labour Relations Act 1974 conferred on trade unions a whole series of immunities (sic) which were consistent with the intention to give them a quasi-corporate status, a legal personality and a reputation which the union would need to protect.

The hearing continues today. Law Report, page 11

24 held after raids in five cities to forestall IRA menace

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Twenty-four people were being interviewed last night by detectives from Special Branch and the anti-terrorist squad after raids in London and four other cities. Senior officers believe the raids may deal a serious blow to Provisional IRA plans for a fresh British offensive.

It is being suggested that a number of the people being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act will prove to be "first division" Provisionals. Although no explosives were recovered, police found handguns and plenty of ammunition. The raids were carried out early yesterday after two months of intelligence gathering and surveillance. Police officers struck at addresses in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Southampton.

Three people were held by Merseyside police, four by Hampshire police, two by Midlands officers and 15 in London by officers drawn from Special Branch, the Anti-Terrorist Squad and the Special Patrol Group.

The weapons were found in London raids at six addresses in west and east London. One of the addresses is an expensive flat in a house in Holland Park, west London, where, according to one resident, the police called for stretchers after they burst in.

No names of people held have been released, but one is reported to be a journalist who works for a Dublin magazine. There was also a report yesterday that a member of a small British left-wing group had been held in the raids in London.

Another of the people being held is reported to be connected with the "International Tribunal on Britain's Presence in Ireland".

After the raids a considerable amount of material was sent away for examination by forensic scientists, and the results of the examinations will not be known for several days at least.

Precise identification of a number of the people being held, at unattended police stations, will also take some time while fingerprints are checked against police records.

The raids are being interpreted as a preemptive strike against any Provisional offensive in the Christmas period. For some time there has been speculation that such an offensive might be launched, and even suggestions that it could include indiscriminate attacks.

The Provisionals have been silent on the British mainland since last winter—the murder of Mr Airey Neave was the work of another Irish group—when attacks were carried out in London and on an oil depot and a gas works.

The Christmas period has become a traditional time of attack, and last year extra police officers were on duty in the main shopping areas of central London.

RUC chief's warning: "You cannot win," the Provisional IRA was told yesterday by Sir Kenneth Newman, departing Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (the Press Association reports).

Sir Kenneth, speaking at his last public engagement before leaving the RUC to join the Northern Ireland cannot succeed in his objective.

But the manner in which the terrorist ultimately fails and the time when that failure occurs, has a great deal to do with the public as well as the police.

Sir Kenneth was addressing 84 recruits at a passing-out parade at Eniskillen, Fermanagh.

Mr Jack Herman, one of Sir Kenneth's deputies, takes over as Chief Constable on January 1.

How British intelligence aided Savak secret police

From Robert Fisk

Tehran, Dec 12

Sitting in the Ervin prison today in their open-neck shirts, winter cardigans, and corduroys, drawing nervously on American cigarettes, the 18 prisoners looked nothing like the popular image of secret policemen. From the moment they were brought into the press conference, these middle-aged and sometimes avuncular men smiled blandly or just stared at government officials described them as criminals.

When a senior Savak officer rose to talk, a man from the Iranian Ministry of National Guidance referred to him as "worse than Eichmann" but the prisoner did not react. Sometimes one felt that the former members of the Shah's secret police defended themselves rather too eloquently for the comfort of the ministry men.

Nevertheless there was an uncomfortable feeling that the press conference was increasingly coming to resemble the trial in which some of the prisoners had yet to hear their fate.

It was a fascinating and occasionally frightening story that they told. Mr Hassan Sana, the economic and security adviser to the deputy head of the Shah's secret police, said that British intelligence cooperation with the Shah, he claimed, prompted British agents to pass to their Iranian counterparts information about Persian students in England.

Mr Sana, a chain-smoker with dark glasses and an apparent passion for brightly-coloured shirts, said that British assistance enabled Savak to detain or arrest students on their return to Tehran from London.

He spoke, too, of how Savak agents were flown from New York by the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), for lessons in interrogation techniques at a secret American

Continued on page 3, col 5

Nato approves plan to modernize US nuclear forces in Europe

From Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Brussels, Dec 12

Britain's defence and foreign ministers tonight approved the controversial £2,500m plan to modernize the alliance's theatre nuclear forces by stationing 572 new American missiles in Europe.

Holland and Belgium may not yet accept missiles on their soil. Their reservations could reduce the number of missiles deployed to 476.

News of the decision, accompanied by a series of arms control proposals which will be put to the Soviet Union, was announced after a six-hour meeting at Nato headquarters.

Both Mr Vance, the United States Secretary of State, and Mr Francis Pym, the British Secretary for Defence, expressed pleasure at the outcome.

Mr Vance said: "Our deployment decision gives evidence of the continued vitality and cohesiveness of the alliance."

Mr Pym commented: "I regard the outcome as a major decision and thoroughly satisfying."

The result was certainly more positive than had been expected last week when the fragile Dutch coalition Government was faced with a hostile vote to the plan in the Parliament, and when the Belgian and Danish positions looked very uncertain.

The 572 nuclear weapons include 108 Pershing ballistic missiles which have a range of 1,000 miles and 464 ground-launched cruise missiles. Under the United States plan the cruise missiles would be stationed in five countries—96 in West Germany, 160 in Britain, 112 in Italy, 48 in Belgium and 48 in Holland. All could reach targets in the Soviet Union.

Britain, consistently robust in its support of the programme, has already started consultations with the United States Air Force about two suitable bases for the missiles. A decision is likely next year, Mr Pym said tonight. Italy and West Germany are also unequivocal in their acceptance of the missiles.

But the Belgians, while accepting their quota, want to review the position in six months in the hope that good progress on arms control negotiations might by then enable them to withdraw.

The Dutch have declined to accept any missiles for now, but will reconsider their position in two years in the light of arms control talks.

Europe will have to pay only a tenth of the £2,500m. Britain's share is expected to be about £35m.

US arms bill rise of 5pc sought
Washington, Dec 12—President Carter said today that he would ask Congress to provide more than \$157,000m (£72,000m) for defence in 1981, an increase of more than 5 per cent after inflation over the current military budget.

He said the increase was necessary to meet the challenge of rising Soviet defence spending—Reuter.

Yard officers jailed for blackmail

Three officers of the Metropolitan Police were jailed at the Central Criminal Court last night for blackmailing Mrs. Soraya Khashoggi.

They were found guilty of plotting to corruptly obtain £5,000 from Mrs. Khashoggi, former wife of Mr. Adnan Khashoggi, an international financier, to ensure that no criminal proceedings were taken against her.

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They had denied the charges, including a third one of plotting to pervert the course of justice by making statements intended to influence the prosecuting authority in Mrs. Khashoggi's favour. This charge was left on the file.

Rights of City Court of Aldermen upheld

By Annabel Ferriman

The right of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of the City of London to reject an alderman democratically elected by residents of the City was upheld yesterday by Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice.

Lord Widgery dismissed an application from Mr Donald Silk, a solicitor from the Barbican, in the City of London, who wanted the Court of Aldermen to declare illegal Mr Silk's election as an alderman for Aldersgate ward last July 23 by 206 votes to 195, but his election was rejected by the aldermen in September.

Mr Silk, who was granted leave to appeal, said after the hearing in the High Court: "The court has held that the Court of Aldermen are entitled to overrule the wishes of the electors in the ward of Aldersgate and to do so without stating reasons."

"In doing so, the court has felt bound by a decision of the 1830s, since when one man, one vote, has become an established principle in elections throughout the civilized world."

For this reason, I feel justified in considering taking the matter a step further."

Lord Widgery said in his judgment: "When I ask myself, 'What I feel about the retention of these somewhat undemocratic arrangements, my personal feelings are not that we are causing any great distress or difficulty, because I think people regard the City of London as something special and I do not think they are offended by happenings in the City of London which might cause comment elsewhere.'"

The last time the Court of Aldermen's right to approve or reject an alderman was considered in the courts and decided "to a very great degree" was in 1839. About then was a long time ago, the undertaking was so comprehensive and the points settled so great that one must look carefully at that set of authorities, he said.

Continued on page 2, col 3

Unions are entitled to sue for libel, High Court told

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Trade unions since 1913 had been entitled to sue for libel in their own names, it was said by the High Court yesterday in answer to a claim that trade unions had no right to sue for defamation.

Mr Michael Kempster, QC, on behalf of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, submitted to Mr Justice O'Connor that if he were to rule otherwise "it would change a practice, an attitude and an assumption that had long been held."

Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, said Mrs Khashoggi's telephone was tapped and records were hidden at her home in Eaton Square, London, and in her handbag so that conversations could be taped.

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HOME NEWS

Trade union movement to display its wrath at Tory policies by mass rally and a day of action

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The trade union movement is to demonstrate its wrath at the Government's policies on labour law reform and the economy by staging a day of action early next summer. Some unions may strike for the day on May 14, but others will confine their protests to lunch-time meetings.

The TUC's economic committee decided on that modest militant course of action yesterday as part of its continuing Campaign for Economic and Social Advance, the slogan for which is "Forward into the 80s - not back to the 30s".

A rally in Hyde Park on Sunday, March 9, will precede the day of protest, and there will be other regional demonstrations of opposition to Cabinet policies on public spending cuts, trade union law changes and industrial strategy. But overall, the TUC's official protest movement is unlikely to cause ministers much anxiety.

Opposition to the full range of government policies is being mounted under the umbrella of this campaign, but the TUC is planning specific measures against the employment Bill which Mr Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, introduced last week.

A conference of trade union presidents and general secretaries has been called for Janu-

ary 22 and the TUC's employment committee meets today to consider the proposed legislation in detail.

Union reaction to the Bill continues to be fundamentally opposed to the labour law reforms, but Mr Frank Chapple, the electricians' leader, argued on the BBC television programme *Platform One* tonight that Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, was oversteering the case against the legislation.

He says: "I think the unions were being slightly hysterical about the proposals, because the only one I think that is worth worrying about, from our point of view, is the secondary picketing issue. I think there is ample evidence that the closed-shop situation needs to be looked at. I think it is very difficult to justify arguments that people who, 30 years working somewhere without being in a union, if a union has a closed shop, they should be fired. I find it very difficult to justify that. It has never been the policy of my union."

On curbs on secondary picketing, Mr Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union said: "I think you could have conflict there, and that concerns me. It is not the difficulties that are made

for unions to picket that bothers me."

"It is that you will not stop people picketing and if you put a very great burden on the police to ensure that people who are picketing there are picketing lawfully, then you will need a lot more policemen and the chances of violence are likely to increase."

On the TUC's proposal for a pledge of respect when Labour regains power, he said: "I think it depends a lot on what sort of Labour Party comes back to power. I do not think with the present leadership, the Labour Party is likely to be back in power for a very long time. If the leadership is changed for a moderate leadership, I do not think that sort of Labour Government is likely to repeal those laws all that quickly."

Mr Leslie Wood, general secretary of the 350,000-member Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, argued that the Bill was "specifically designed to appease those dogmatic Tories whose real intention is to eliminate effective trade unionism altogether."

The proposed legislation, particularly on the closed shop and picketing, would cause and exacerbate disputes rather than solve them. Legislation based on right-wing Tory dogmas would provide no solution.

Call for extension of steel deadline

By Our Labour Editor

Steel union leaders meeting today to plan their campaign against the British Steel Corporation's proposal to axe 52,000 jobs will be told that employment casualties could be three times that figure. They will be urged to seek an extension of the Government's deadline for state steel to break even.

A confidential background paper to the TUC Steel Industry Committee accepts that the industry has greater plant capacity than it needs, but argues work-sharing and a much longer timetable for economic recovery.

Union leaders will press this view in talks later today with Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of British Steel. A meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, has been cancelled at the minister's request.

The jobs forecast of TUC experts was touched on yesterday at a meeting of the TUC Economic Committee, to which William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC), reported on the BSC plan and his own union's threat of a national strike from January 2.

Many thousands more jobs will be lost, the TUC believes, because of the knock-on effect of unemployment in the coal-mining, engineering, docks and other industries.

The TUC wants tripartite discussions between unions, the Government and BSC to determine the industry's shape and size, rather than the corporation's unilateral imposition of job cuts amounting to one third of the labour force. An essential component of that strategy would be easing of the Government's cash limits.

The ISTC executive has been called to London for a special meeting next Wednesday, and there seems little prospect that the strike will be called off then.

Plea to railmen: Steel union leaders yesterday asked British Rail workers to halt all movement of steel throughout the country if their threatened strike over BSC's 2 per cent pay offer goes ahead on January 2 (the Press Association reports).

Tories losing woman voters to Labour, survey shows

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

A sudden jump to 71 per cent in the number who believe the economy will worsen next year is accompanied by swings of 14 per cent back to Labour in most groups and among skilled workers in an opinion poll published yesterday.

Overall Labour's lead over Conservatives in the sample is put at 45 to 40, with the Liberals given 13 per cent, and others 2 per cent. This overall 6 per cent swing to Labour is not expected by analysts to produce an upset for the Conservatives in today's by-election at Herefordshire, South-West, but the social or class trend is hardly comforting for the Government.

In the poll, conducted for the *Evening Standard* by Market Opinion Research International (MORI), the only groups among whom the Government have been gaining ground are the over 55s (a 1 per cent swing), and the so-called ABC 1 group, which includes white collar staff from

office workers to managing directors (a 1.5 per cent swing).

Voters who are detached from Labour are women (9 per cent swing back), skilled manual workers (13 per cent swing) and all age groups between 18 and 54 years (14 per cent swing). The swing to Labour among trade unionists is less, at 6 per cent and among all male voters only 3 per cent.

Ministers will shrug off the opinion polls, if they win the election, but they will be sharply disappointed at the defection tendency among women and among the skilled workers.

The economic depression feeling was seen in the switch between this year and last. Last November MORI's poll showed that only 45 per cent thought the economy would worsen; now the figure has jumped to 71 per cent. This is seen as a large turnaround.

The survey was conducted between November 25 and December 3 among a quota sample of 1,854 adults in 154 constituencies throughout Great Britain.

Rights of City Court of Aldermen upheld

Continued from page 1

The House of Lords then upheld the rights of the Court of Aldermen and these judgments established what the issues were before the court in this case.

The applicant's case raised three points. Mr Elvidge, counsel for Mr Silk, maintained that the right of the City to approve the election of an alderman which had been established by custom had been abolished by the implication of other statutes. There had been a general democratization of elections and a constant trend to make aldermanic elections more democratic.

But that argument was answered by Lord Denning in his judgment in the New Windsor Corporation v. Mearns in 1975, in which he said that a custom could only be abolished by statute or by the "side-wind" of a statute.

Mr Silk was ordered to pay costs, which he estimated amounted to "several thousand pounds".

Leading article, page 13

A photograph showing how the proposed parliamentary building will look on the site in Bridge Street.

Minister defends plan for MPs' £120m offices

By John Young

Planning Reporter

The latest plans for new offices for MPs, which would cost an estimated £120m, were disclosed by the Commons Services Committee yesterday.

Details of the scheme for a site in Bridge Street, opposite the Palace of Westminster, are in a feasibility study by Casson, Condon and Partners. Although it is dated last May, it was not released until yesterday, along with the committee's report welcoming it.

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, Leader of the House of Commons and the committee chairman, pointed out that the proposals still had to be approved by Parliament, and that the Government would have to authorize the expenditure.

He made it clear that any building must be considered against the present background of financial stringency. Parlia-

mentary buildings could be no exception.

The need for improved facilities was undisputed, he asserted. "I do not think any other league house in the world would put up with the kind of primitive accommodation which we have had to endure."

He defended the proposal to include a swimming pool within the complex as a way of giving members of Parliament healthy exercises.

Asked whether they might not similarly benefit from a brisk walk across Bridge Street, instead of being given an underground moving walkway, Mr St John-Stevas agreed that that particular proposal might need to be looked at again.

The Casson, Condon proposals are the latest in a succession of schemes for the Bridge Street site. Architecturally they are more modest than their predecessors, and are likely to appeal to conservationists in that they allow the retention,

in whole or in part, of all the listed buildings.

Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy and the firm's senior partner, said yesterday that the sensitivity of the site caused him to approach his task with some trepidation.

The building would provide offices for five MPs for 400 MPs, and for their secretarial and research staff.

The proposals also include shops along a pedestrian arcade, and a new underground station. The study observes that Westminster is visited by millions of people from all over the world, and that the present station is unworthy of the name. It has yet to be established who would pay for its replacement.

Our Political Correspondent writes: No government funds will be provided for the new parliamentary precinct, in spite of the optimistic statements made by Mr St John-Stevas.

Other ministers were appalled

when they learnt Mr St John-Stevas had hinted that the scheme was likely to go ahead. In their view expenditure on a scheme for MPs, when the rest of the population is asked to accept cuts on all kinds of public spending affecting their pockets, cannot be justified.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, is reported to be annoyed that any suggestion was made to the effect that the scheme could have government backing until the battle against inflation has been won. The current knowledge and wisdom of all over the world, and that the present station is unworthy of the name. It has yet to be established who would pay for its replacement.

The present plan suffers from the disadvantage that it crippled the three or four other plans that have emerged in the past 20 years. The money is not available. Indeed, as Mr St John-Stevas told the Commons on Tuesday, money is not even available to clean the fabric of the Palace of Westminster.

Leading article, page 13

Mr Jack Trevor Story freed from bankruptcy

Mr Jack Trevor Story, aged 62, the author of *Line Now, Lay Later*, obtained his discharge from his second bankruptcy yesterday after offering to pay creditors 10 per cent of his future earnings for three years.

Mr Story, of Stacey Hill Farm, Wolverton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, almost missed the hearing at London Bankruptcy Court.

I was having lunch with Robert and Sheridan Morley. They said: 'You'd better drink up or you'll miss your date with the Official Receiver'. Mr Story said later: "I only made it by the skin of my teeth."

He first went bankrupt in 1967, with debts of £6,772. He has been discharged from that failure. A second receiving order was made in 1974, when claims, mainly from the Inland Revenue, totalled £24,326. The

court heard that those claims had since been reduced to about £4,500.

"I can get into debt again now—the cost of living has gone up since I last had a cheque book in 1967," he said after leaving the court. "I am going to find myself one of those marvellous credit cards, get myself a loan, and buy a Range Rover on HP."

Mr Story, who has been married twice, and has eight children, said in court he earned only about £2,500 a year as an author. "But my girlfriend works, so we get by." He is living with Elaine Hepple, aged 24.

Asked how much he could pay to creditors he replied: "I borrowed £100 on Friday to pay my telephone bill. That just about sums up my situation."

He had no good a writer to make a lot of money. Each novel only makes about £1,000.

Referring to his most recent novel, *Up River*, which is about the Official Receiver's department, he said it had been given a glowing review in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday.

Mr Story wrote the television series *Jack On The Box* which was interrupted by the independent television strike. He says all six episodes are to be re-run.

Later, Mr Story said: "Getting discharged from bankruptcy is like getting your wings back. It is getting your soul back. I used to have a big soul, a soul as big as my car and my house. Now my soul does 50mph after all these nervous, careful, law-abiding years. It is a terrible little Renault 5 soul."



Mr Story "... going to find one of those marvellous credit cards ..."

IRA bomb hurts soldiers near ministerial visit

From a Staff Reporter

Belfast

A 400lb remote-controlled bomb yesterday injured two soldiers near Newry, Co Down, Mr Giles Shaw, Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, opening a factory in the area at the time.

The bomb was hidden by the Provisional IRA in a parked cattle truck on the main Newry to Bessbrook road.

Meanwhile, the fate of the Government's proposed constitutional conference on the devolution of power to Northern Ireland may be settled in the next few days.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has arranged more talks on Saturday morning at Stormont Castle in an attempt to persuade Roman Catholic political leaders to join the conference.

Strike by Shell tanker drivers may end today

By Donald McIntyre

Labour Reporter

The Shell tanker drivers' strike may be called off today despite the failure of talks between the "Transport" and "General" Unions and the company to produce an agreement yesterday.

Workers at the 11 Shell terminals still held last night will consider whether to end their industrial action after receiving reports of the negotiations.

About three quarters of the company's 2,000 tanker drivers and staff at 34 main terminals were working normally last night.

Union negotiators accepted reluctantly that the management was not going to give in to the union's demands for the contract labour issue to be put to arbitration. The company and the union will discuss the issue again.

Police Bill introduced in the Lords

By One Political Staff

A new negotiating body dealing with conditions of police service is the United Kingdom

to be set up under the Police Negotiating Board Bill introduced in the House of Lords yesterday by Lord Belsford.

Under Secretary of State, Home Office, and read a first time. This is probably the first response of the Government to the protests made two weeks ago about the "lock-in" legislation, being started in the Lords.

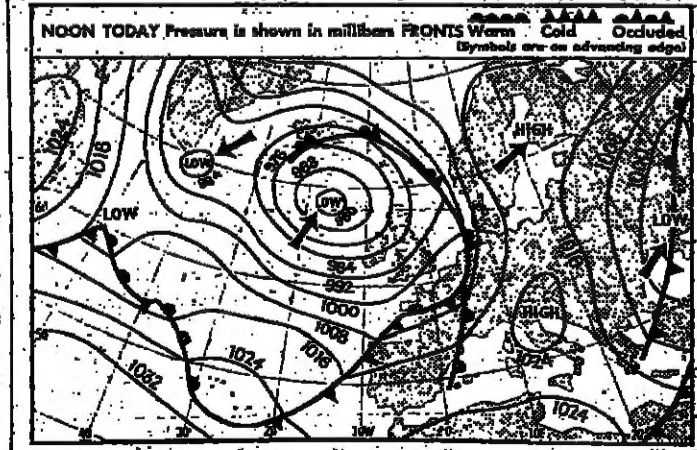
Peers were angered by the Government's decision to take from the Lords the bulky Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, which had already had a first reading there.

It is likely, the substantial Bill that the peers have been expecting, but this police measure gives them something to get on with. The Government wants to achieve a fair balance of Bills in both Houses, so another big measure of Bills in the Lords next summer.

The aim of the Bill is to effect to the recommendations of the Edmund-Davies report on the police negotiating machinery published in July, 1978.

The Edmund-Davies report recommended a new body, operating on a statutory basis, has been set up under the chairmanship of Lord Plowden since July certain statutory functions still vested in the Police Bill makes the same legal changes.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today. Sun rises: 7.58 am. Sets: 4.52 pm. Moon rises: 1.03 am. Sets: 1.15 pm.

New Moon: December 19. Lighting up: 4.22 pm to 7.28 am. High water: London Bridge 3.19 am, 5.58 pm (18.4ft); 1.02 pm, 5.58 pm (19.1ft). Aeronautical: 1.13 am, 9.8m (32.0ft); 1.46 pm, 9.9m (32.5ft). Dover: 5.51 am, 5.58 am (17.9ft); 6.42 pm, 5.22 pm (17.0ft). Hull: 12.63 am, 5.8m (18.0ft); 1.16 pm, 5.7m (18.6ft); Liverpool: 5.08 am, 7.1m (23.4ft); 6.29 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft).

A deep depression 400 miles W of Ireland is continuing to deepen and move slowly NE; associated fronts will quickly clear all areas, but further troughs will quickly follow.

Area forecasts: Central S, SW NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, Channel Islands: Heavy showers, heavy at times, a few bright or sunny intervals; wind S, veering to 9°C (45° to 48°F).

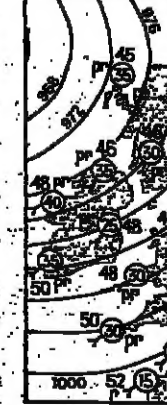
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy with blustery showers, heavy at times; wind mainly SE, strong or gale; max temp 5°C to 7°C (45° to 48°F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Mostly cloudy showers or longer periods of rain, heavy at times; wind S or SW, strong at times; max temp 5°C to 7°C (45° to 48°F).

NW Scotland: Mostly cloudy showers or longer periods of rain, heavy at times; wind SE veering S, strong to gale, locally severe; max temp 5°C to 7°C (45° to 48°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Unsettled, very windy at times.

NOON TODAY



Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am, 10°C (50°F); min, 6 am, 4°C (39°F). Rain, 6 am to 7 pm, 79 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 79 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 79 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 6 pm, 79 per cent.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$1.50, Canada \$1.50, Hong Kong \$1.50, India \$1.50, Japan \$1.50, New Zealand \$1.50, Singapore \$1.50, South Africa \$1.50, Switzerland \$1.50, Taiwan \$1.50, Thailand \$1.50, USA \$1.50, West Germany \$1.50, Yugoslavia \$1.50.

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One of the first things we do for a family with a blind child is... we help the parents.

As you can imagine, they have a natural tendency to be over-protective. Yet their child needs freedom to explore the world around with every other sense.

At the RNIB we have sound practical knowledge to pass on to parents, including the experience of many others like them.

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HOME NEWS

Industrial democracy
experiment on board
Post Office to end

By Felton

Reporter

Government has decided the two year experiment in industrial democracy in the Post Office under which seven representatives sat on the

Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announced the decision yesterday that the Post Office management

or favour continuing the experiment. The Government had not to renew the legislation next March.

Keith said: "In accordance with our general policy for the Post Office and other public utilities, we will not be renewing the legislation next March."

He said: "The Post Office management will be asked to decide whether they wish to continue the experiment at the end of this year."

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BBC defends
quiz show
criticized as
rubbishy

By Our Arts Reporter

After the Independent Broadcasting Authority's spirited defence of Bruce Forsyth's show against press criticism, the BBC today takes up the cudgels on behalf of one of its programmes against similar press harrackings.

The programme is the quiz show *Blankety Blank*, which has been defended by the BBC as a harmless fun, skilfully handled by Terry Wogan.

One national critic called it "a rubbishy word-game". To this kind of remark, the BBC Handbook replies: "Television programme-makers can certainly be helped in their task by informed criticism in the press. However, if this criticism gets too strident, it can overshadow actual achievement. The year was remarkable for the way in which developments marched hand in hand with controversy."

Another complaint dealt with in the report concerns parliamentary broadcasting. "The new service (it began in April last year) was not welcomed in its entirety. We found that the live broadcast of Prime Minister's Questions, when members were at their most vociferous in support and denunciation of ministers, upset some people for whom the occasion lacked decorum and irritated others because they thought it gave a false impression of Parliament as a whole."

BBC Handbook 1980, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA (£3).

Mr. William Barlow, the Post Office chairman, the full-time management board members said most of the independent members were adamant that the scheme should end.

Mr. Adam Butler, a Minister of State at the Department of Industry, said: "I think one of the reasons it was wrong was that management found the board was not making its decisions as effectively as it ought to, and that there was a disproportionate amount of time given up to industrial relations."

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A study of the Queen by Bernard Hailstone to be sold in aid of the Artists General Benevolent Fund. It is on exhibition at Harrison McCann, Fitzroy Street, London, until tomorrow.

In brief

Compensation
for manager

An industrial tribunal at Newcastle upon Tyne ended yesterday when Mr Leonard Walker, the dismissed manager of Darlington Football Club, of the Fourth Division, accepted a sum of several thousand pounds compensation.

Mr Walker is the first dismissed manager of an English Football League club to take his case to an industrial tribunal. He alleged the dismissal was unfair.

Nursery schools plea

The National Union of Teachers has welcomed a recent opinion by legal advisers in the Department of Education and Science that local education authorities have a legal duty to provide nursery schooling and have urged Mr Mark Corliss, QC, Secretary of State, to tell them so.

Two die in air crash

Mr Gerald Leonard Gates, aged 52, of Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, and Mr Thomas John Grace, of Tring, Hertfordshire, died when a Cessna 152 crashed on a pleasure flight after taking off from Bonker air park, High Wycombe, yesterday. Two other people were injured.

Island and tax held at 20 pc

Guernsey States, the island parliament, yesterday approved budget proposals increasing income tax allowances and holding the standard rate at 20p in £1. Tobacco, drink and petrol prices are unchanged.

Rolls record expected

A 1921 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost could fetch up to £50,000 when it is auctioned at Christie's South Kensington vintage car sale tonight.

Jail visitor
refuses to
resign over
broadcast

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Home Office has suggested to an official prison visitor at Wormwood Scrubs, Mr Jonathan Pollitzer, that he should resign because he broadcast on television about the riot there without the permission of the prison department, thus breaking a rule.

Fifty-four prisoners and 11 officers were injured in the riot. One of the injured was a prisoner whom Mr Pollitzer had been visiting. He told me: "I was shattered to see this non-combatant with seven stitches on his head and he told me he had severe bruising on his back."

In reply to a parliamentary question by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, included Wormwood Scrubs in a list of places where a new Mufti squad had been used. Mufti stands for "Minimum use of force tactical intervention squad".

Miss Kay Douglas-Scott, another voluntary worker at the prison who appeared on the same television programme as Mr Pollitzer, *Thames News*, but on a different date, and visited the same prisoner, has also been put under pressure.

An inquiry into the disturbance at the prison is being conducted by Mr Keith Gibson, the prison department's south-east regional director.

Mr Pollitzer has written to Mr Gibson declining to give evidence to the inquiry.

He called instead for a "full-scale independent inquiry" rather than one "behind closed doors". He has refused a Home Office request to resign, and has been suspended until further notice.

The Home Office said last night that Miss Douglas-Scott, a voluntary associate working with the probation and after-care service, was told on Monday that she "would not be assigned a new prisoner at the present time because of her over-involvement in her case-work".

Miss Douglas-Scott commented: "It is preposterous."

Vineyard bought
by German firm

One of England's largest vineyards, Baronsgate, at Heron's Ghyll, near Uckfield, East Sussex, has been bought by Pterich Ltd, the German wine producers and shippers.

The company, which is thought to have paid more than £250,000 for the 61 acres and a six-bedroom country house, intends to turn the property into its British show place.

Bhutto's son
red effect of
blicity

Student son of Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, hanged allegedly plotting a political

er, told Inner London Court yesterday that he or make a hoax telephone

because adverse publicity have injured his father.

Shahbaz Bhutto, aged 22, pleaded not guilty to a telephone call from flat in Lowndes Square, east London, saying there was a

at 10 Downing Street.

Bhutto said his father's had been sympathetically

ved in Britain and he had ostility towards the Gov-

ent, or Mr James Callaghan, then Prime Minister.

Important telephone calls made or received at the flat in Lowndes Square

trial was adjourned until

Woman stabbed
to death
at university

From Our Correspondent

Reading

A secretary aged 32 was stabbed to death at the polytechnic department of Reading University, Berkshire, yesterday.

A laboratory technician, who went to her rescue, was also stabbed by her attacker.

Mr Christopher Knott, aged 35, of Pinneridge, Burghfield Common, Berkshire, underwent surgery for multiple wounds at Basildon Hospital, Reading. His condition was described as satisfactory after an operation.

The woman, whom police did not name, was married with two children.

Det Supt Len Bradley paid tribute to the "extreme courage" of Mr Knott.

Police said last night that a man was being interviewed about the death of the woman.

Labour invitation to private
schools to define role

By Diana Gaddes

Education Correspondent

The Labour Party has invited the Independent Schools Information Service (Istis) to submit proposals on the future role of independent schools in relation to the comprehensive system.

Mr Tim Devlin, director of Istis, said yesterday that he had hoped that as the independent schools did not want to be tied to any political party a meaningful discussion could have been started with the Labour Party.

"I am therefore surprised that Mr Neil Kinnock, [Opposition spokesman on education] has taken every opportunity to knock the independent schools. His new proposals may win him

the support of the wild left, but they are so blatantly unfair that they will almost certainly contribute to the Labour Party's downfall at the next election", he said.

Mr Kinnock announced at a press conference on Tuesday that a working party of the Labour Party's National Executive Council was considering several options on ways to attack the independent schools.

Mr Kinnock said that it was not a question of malice in the Labour Party. It had long been the party's belief that as long as independent schools existed, there would never be a sufficient degree of fairness and objectivity shown toward state schools.

Polytechnic gets
approval again
from inspectorate

Teesside Polytechnic, which

was severely criticized last year by the Council for National Academic Awards, has received a favourable report from the council.

In a statement issued yesterday, the CNA, the main degree-awarding body for advanced courses in maintained colleges of higher and further education, said that after a two-day inspection last week, it was able to continue its approval of the polytechnic as a major institution of higher education.

After a routine inspection in May, 1978, the CNA published a report in which it spoke of the "grave situation" at the polytechnic.

Tories 'dare not' forecast
continuing inflation

By Our Planning Reporter

The Government would not succeed in reducing public expenditure for one reason—the ever-increasing demands of social security, Mr Thomas Caulcott, Secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said yesterday.

Addressing the annual conference in London of the Town and Country Planning Association, he suggested that the growth in social security payments would not be reflected in next month's public expenditure White Paper. That was because the Government dare not publicly forecast the continuation of inflation, unemployment and recession.

What was certain was that, if the published forecast figures for social security were too low, as they had repeatedly been in the past, the inevitable consequence was that figures for productive public expenditure, on such things as housing, education and transport, would be too high.

"They will be too high because the Government will have to reduce them to make room for the increased expenditure on social security which they cannot avoid," he said.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the conference that he was appalled at the frustration, waste and economic loss caused by planning delays.



It speeds traffic and stops thieves.

It's a radar device, originally developed by Mullard for defence purposes, which is now controlling traffic and protecting property.

It sends out a microwave beam and, using the Doppler principle, compares this with the reflected beam. Any change in the return signal means something has moved.

So, the small boxes on top of temporary traffic lights are 'watching' for cars, allowing them to move on with the minimum delay. Similar components have become the nerves of highly versatile and

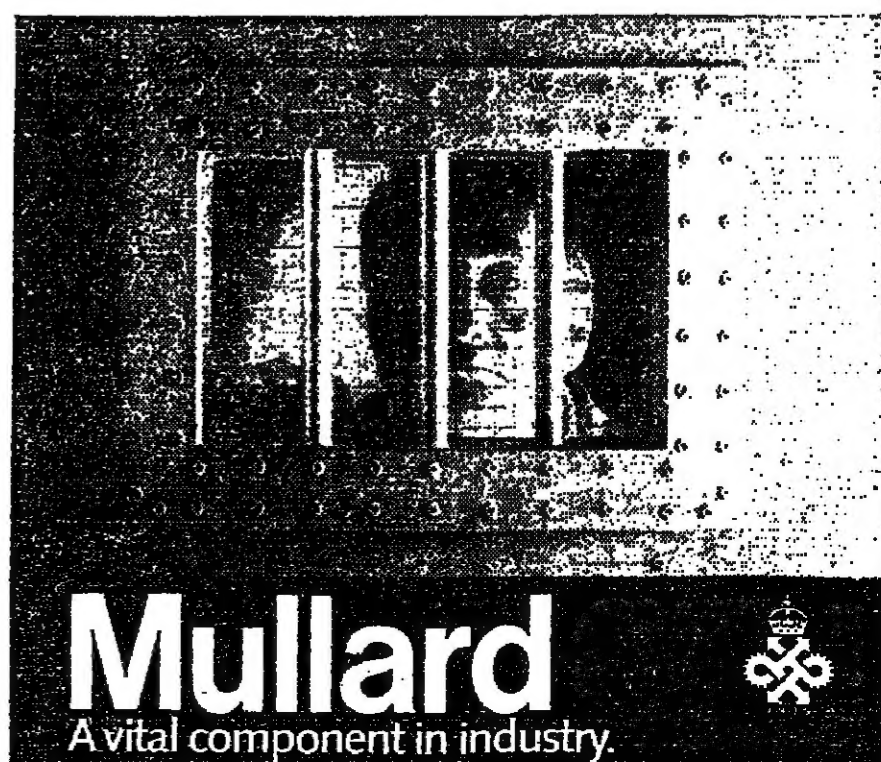
effective intruder alarms. There are also automatic door openers, a speedometer for boats and, in the offing, an anti-skid system for aircraft and heavy lorries.

Mullard have, on tap, the widest range anywhere of microwave components. We are the largest producers of electronic components in this country and, right across the board, industry comes to us for some of the most advanced components technology available in the world today.

We, in return, are only too happy

to co-operate fully and closely.

And that's a combined effort to keep things moving smoothly.



Mullard
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WEST EUROPE

Gaulist
'Charge of
Light
Brigade'From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Dec 12

The Council of Ministers, at its weekly meeting today, authorized M. Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, to pledge the responsibility of his Government on the second reading of the Budget and Social Security Bills in the National Assembly. This follows the decision of the Gaulists to abstain from voting.

As the opposition is certain to table the ritual motions of censure, the autumn session, which was to have ended on December 21, will probably have to be extended by 48 hours. After that, the Government will have a free hand for more than three months.

It will be the third and fourth times within two and a half months that M. Barre has resorted to Article 49 of the Constitution to push through what he regards as essential policy measures against the opposition of Gaulists in the Government majority.

The Gaulists are indulging in a charge of the Light Brigade, without advantage, against what they have come to regard as the batteries of the enemy, while refusing to vote with the opposition to bring the Government down.

Their position is accurately summed up in a cartoon by Chevez in *Le Monde* today which shows M. Jacques Chirac charging the Prime Minister's battery as he sticks to his gun and disdains to be hit by a pile of cannon balls marked "constitution".

M. Barre has made no attempt to conceal his batteries. He told the Lyons daily *Revue-Alpes* in an interview: "I am sure the country would severely condemn any group of (the) parliamentary majority which, in the difficult circumstances our country and world are going through, brought into question the 'good choice' of 1978 (the election result) and thus exposed it to instability and adventure".

He reiterated the threat of dissolution to which many Gaulist MPs, who owe their seats to Giscard support, are not insensitive.

It is a parliamentary majority failed the Government, especially because it disagreed with the policy it pursues under the authority of the President, it is the people who would decide."

Restyled Herr Strauss
loses much of his colourFrom Patricia Clough
 Bonn, Dec 12

This week has seen the appearance in Bonn of a restyled Herr Franz Josef Strauss—restrained, matter of fact, visibly aware of his new responsibilities as opposition candidate for the chancellorship.

The occasion for what amounted to his real debut as candidate for Chancellor was the budget in the Bundestag in which he launched into a general attack on Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, and his Government. He accused them of errors, shortcomings and failures on a wide range of policies and declared them incapable of running the country.

His style, however, was oddly restrained compared with his flamboyant and often violent attacks in the past. He stuck for the main part to an obviously carefully prepared text rather than the colourful and sometimes outrageous off-the-cuff remarks

Euro-MPs still ready to throw out
1980 budget after dramatic
peace initiative by EEC ministersFrom Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Dec 12

The EEC's Council of Ministers met here today in an unprecedented bid to appease the European Parliament so that it will not throw out the Community's draft budget for 1980.

The mere fact that the meeting was taking place was itself a measure of the enhanced status of the assembly, which was elected directly for the first time in June this year.

The first round of discussions between the council and a parliamentary delegation led by Madame Simone Veil, the assembly's president, left Euro-MPs firm in their resolve to reject the budget.

The Parliament was asking for restoration of some £430m in non-agricultural spending cut out last month by EEC budget ministers. More importantly, the Parliament wanted member states to agree to an increased tax on milk producers by a specified date next year.

The ministers were prepared to issue a statement promising to bear in mind the Parliament's views when member states meet next spring to fix EEC farm

prices and decide on related measures to reduce agricultural costs.

But Euro-MPs made it clear that they wanted a specific commitment from member states to the Parliament, in order to establish its right as an institution to have a say in determining the level of farm spending.

Several member states, France and Denmark among them, are extremely reluctant to concede this principle.

National governments have always insisted that farm spending, which consumes 75 per cent of the budget, is outside parliamentary control.

At far as increasing non-farm spending is concerned, mainly on such things as regional industrial and social aid, member states were unwilling to offer more than a maximum of £130m, well below what the assembly demanded.

The Parliament's budget committee has prepared a fall-back position if it should prove impossible tomorrow to muster the two-thirds majority needed for budget rejection. It would involve the Parliament's voting

back into the budget all the cuts made by member states.

The Parliament can do this by a three-fifths majority, but such an increase would be challenged by member states as taking total non-farm spending above the ceiling set each year by the European Commission.

If the budget is rejected, spending would have to be held to this year's level. But the Council of Ministers would still have the right to vote some increases in farm spending.

While their actions give support to the Government's position over British contributions to the EEC, ministers are expressing private concern at the additional powers that may accrue to Euro-MPs. In the long term, ministers strongly believe, the real power must reside with the Council of Ministers.

Leading article, page 13

British farmers looking for
substantial price risesBy Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

British farmers yesterday called for substantial price rises and a further devaluation of the "green pound". They said that the £150m annual increase in their returns resulting from the latest devaluation would be swallowed up by a 21 per cent wage rise to farm workers.

Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "The union is encouraged that the Government has recognised the current problems facing producers, but further measures are necessary".

The union wants increases on all products governed by the Community price-fixing next year. It rejects the Government's policy of seeking a freeze on EEC milk prices, which is a rise of about 2p a pint

early next year on bottled milk.

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday that the Government had tried to analyse the difficulties of British agriculture and to arrest its decline. That will continue to be our objective, he said.

He said the House of Commons that the aim of the 5 per cent devaluation of the green pound was to "boost the resources available to British agriculture".

The devaluation was opposed by British food processors and consumer groups yesterday on the grounds that it would increase food prices when farmers' incomes were already high enough.

The European Community Group, which represents 22 consumer organizations, said that the devaluation would add 25p a week to the shopping bill of a typical family.

ETA frees
Madrid
politicianFrom Harry Debelius
Madrid, Dec 12

The Basque secessionist organization ETA today freed a leading Basque nationalist after holding him hostage for 31 days in a demand for the release of five imprisoned ETA militants and a public inquiry into allegations of police torture.

There was no official acknowledgement of any deal, but the release of Señor Javier Rupérez, an MP and chief spokesman of the Basque Democratic Union, is believed to mark the successful conclusion of secret bargaining between ETA and unofficial representatives of the Government.

Señor Rupérez was seized on November 11 while driving from his home in Madrid to a hotel in the city. He was freed just before 6 am today on a highway near Burgos, and identified himself after walking into a petrol station.

A doctor who examined him said: "Javier Rupérez is in perfect condition—and no indication of illness was discovered... He suffers only from a slight complaint in his left leg".

Someone claiming to speak on ETA's behalf telephoned the house of Señor Rupérez at about 6.30 am and told his brother, Ignacio, that he had been released on the outskirts of Burgos.

After being brought back to Madrid, Señor Rupérez went to the Moncloa Palace for a private meeting with Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister. At his home he was reunited with his Dutch wife, Geraldine, and his baby daughter.

Among those who made public appeals for his release were the Pope, Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, Dr Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Mother Teresa.

ETA has carried out at least 23 kidnappings in Spain in the past nine years, killing two of their hostages and "knee-capping" most of the rest.

OVERSEAS

Carrington
strategy
calculated
carefullyBy David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent

Despite talk of Lord Carrington's "final gamble" in sending Lord Soames to Rhodesia, his diplomacy is far more calculated than it appears. The ceasefire talks, which continued behind the scenes yesterday, are not a gamble, but the last stage in a very carefully judged strategy.

What people talk about is the risk of something going wrong, the Foreign Secretary would be the last to deny it. As he sees it, 101 things could go wrong. Every day is going to bring its own crisis. What is extraordinary is that the settlement has got so far—hence his emphasis on keeping the momentum going.

There were three options the Government could have taken when it came to power last May. One was to go with the mood of the Conservative Party, as expressed by the Prime Minister himself, which was to recognize Bishop Muzorewa's government whatever the rest of the world said.

Another option was to do nothing at all and "waive" around the problem. The third was to have the courage to try for a settlement, despite the bad omens of previous failures.

The point many critics seemed to miss is that each of these strategies was full of risks. The risk in recognizing the Muzorewa regime was that Britain would have broken up the Commonwealth, alienated most of its friends, and suffered an incalculable commercial loss.

The risk in the second course was that more and more people would be killed and southern Africa would become a battleground. The risk in the third course—going for a settlement—was that it would not work.

As Lord Carrington saw it,

Continued from Page One

...a mysterious journey that took four hours by air, and a journey with sealed and darkened windows.

He named the former American CIA station chief in Tehran as a Mr William Wood and recalled a conversation with him in the last days of the Shah's rule.

"Farah (the Empress) wanted me to find out how the revolution could be stopped," he said. "So I went to the embassy to see Wood—I do not know his name now—but he told me that the Shah could not stop the revolution without killing perhaps two million people. So I went back and told Farah. That was just before the Shah left Iran."

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Lord Carrington keeping his fingers crossed yesterday at a Brussels meeting.

this course, which involved Britain accepting its responsibility for the situation in Rhodesia, being the right thing to do in a moral sense.

The ceasefire proposals have been worked out with great care, to try to meet the genuine concerns of both sides. Clearly, no one can compel them to observe a ceasefire. But the essence of the final proposals is that each side can see that, if it does what is required of it,

the other side will have an incentive to fulfil its own part. In the first stage of the Rhodesian forces' disengagement and retreat to their bases, the Patriotic Front knows that its own forces can assemble in safety. In the second phase, if they then assemble they will become legal forces, and their road and other essential needs will be supplied by the British authorities.

If the Rhodesians see that

this assembly has taken place, their fear that the guerrillas will remain on the rampage would be substantially removed. "Each side," as the proposals put it, "can be informed of the other's movements and their intentions."

Many things can go wrong in this process and probably will. It is not really a gamble, it is the best risk in the circumstances.

Savak cell
for roasting
prisonersFrom David Cross
Washington, Dec 12

The United States today issued a strong appeal to the Patriotic Front negotiators in London to conclude an agreement promptly for a ceasefire in Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

A State Department spokesman said it would be "tragic" if a final peace settlement were to falter on this last obstacle. Britain's latest compromise proposals for a ceasefire appeared to be fair to all concerned, the spokesman added.

This latest appeal reflects some concern here that Lord Soames' arrival in Salisbury yesterday was the start of a final peace settlement. Mr. Soames' arrival in Salisbury yesterday was the start of a final peace settlement.

The Administration is under pressure from Britain to end the American boycott promptly. Certainly more than this week—so that the policies of the two allies towards Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

can continue to be synchronized. The British argue that yesterday's vote in the Salisbury Parliament and the arrival of a British governor restore legality to Rhodesia and sanctions should therefore be allowed to lapse.

But not all American officials agree that it would be in the best interests of the United States to end the economic boycott immediately. Mr. Donald McHenry, the United States Ambassador in Salisbury, believes that the sanctions should continue until the Security Council, which originally authorized them, has acted formally to rescind them.

In a message to his colleagues in the State Department, Mr. McHenry says he believes "real difficulties" could be caused by the fact that United Nations sanctions remain on the books. He did not, however, indicate what kind of difficulties he envisaged.

Responding to questions about the memorandum, a

State Department spokesman said that the Administration's main concern was that there should be a consensus in the international community on the lifting of sanctions. There was, as yet, "no change" in United States policy towards the question but an announcement might be made soon.

The spokesman reiterated that American policy would continue to be that no party should have a veto over fair settlement proposals.

This comment seemed to indicate that Washington will soon decide to lift sanctions in line with President Carter's promise that the economic sanctions should end when a British governor has assumed authority in Salisbury and a process leading to impartial elections has begun.

UN informed Britain formally advised the United Nations Security Council tonight that the state of rebellion in Rhodesia was at an end and sanctions against the territory should be lifted.

Labour Party reconciled
to Soames missionBy Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

The Labour leadership yesterday appeared to have accepted the risks involved in sending Lord Soames to Rhodesia in advance of a final ceasefire agreement.

As the Commons embarked on the second reading of the Zimbabwe Bill, Mr. Peter Shore, Opposition foreign affairs spokesman, said that if all went well as they devoutly hoped, there would be delight and relief on both sides of the House.

The assurances given on Tuesday by Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Sheehy, Secretary of State, that the Government would not prosecute in the United Kingdom persons who committed acts either in furtherance of illegal independence, or in resistance to it before the date of the Governor's arrival, were necessary.

The Bill was given an unopposed second reading.

Opening the debate, Sir Ian Gilmour told the House that a settlement could not have been achieved without a British involvement to supervise elections.

As Sir Ian was questioned by Mr. Sheehy about the one reason for the Government's hope that hostilities would end once Lord Soames had arrived, arose from the amnesty provisions in the Bill.

Mr. Sheehy said that since the Governor's arrival any hostile act would be against the legal authority of the British Government rather than the illegal former regime.

The Government anticipated the prosecution in the United Kingdom of persons who committed acts either in furtherance of illegal independence, or in resistance to it before the date of the Governor's arrival, were necessary.

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Moscow says
Britain's role
'neo-colonialist'From Michael Byrnes
Moscow, Dec 12

By sending Lord Soames to Rhodesia, the British Government was pursuing its aim of putting pressure on the Patriotic Front, imposing a ceasefire terms on it and presenting it with a fait accompli, Tass said today.

Accusing Britain of neo-colonialist aims, Tass said the latest attempt to force a settlement was a "step backward" and would not solve Rhodesia's problems and was fraught with serious consequences.

Lord Soames was described as a man from a class linked by deep roots with the Patriotic Front, which form the so-called Rhodesia lobby. He held the most extreme right-wing views and would not remain neutral in the political struggle between the Salisbury administration and the Patriotic Front.

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Briton accused
after Spanish
abortion incidentFrom Our Correspondent
Madrid, Dec 12

A British woman accused in an abortion case entered the women's prison in Alicante today while friends tried to raise £500 to secure her release on bail.

A few days ago a young woman from Benidorm required emergency treatment in a hospital after an abortion attempt. Mrs Sylvia Maude Wilson-Roberts, aged 42, of Stamford Le Hope, Essex, was arrested when a doctor reported the matter to authorities.

Mrs Wilson-Roberts' three children, a son of 10 and two boys, aged five, are being cared for by neighbours. She and her sons have lived in Benidorm for several years. According to the police, a number of abortions has been performed in the town recently.

Abortion is illegal in Spain. There have been abortion trials in various cities in recent months, many of them accompanied by protest demonstrations staged by feminists.

March hearing for 'Canard' case

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Dec 12

The Paris civil tribunal today fixed the dates for the defamation cases brought by two of President Giscard d'Estaing's cousins against the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* and the right-wing weekly *Minute*.

Each plaintiff is seeking damages of 200,000 francs (£22,400) from each publication for libelous attacks on the French political scene. The two cousins are M. François Giscard d'Estaing, managing director of the Banque Paribas, and M. Jacques Giscard d'Estaing, financial director at the French Atomic Energy Commission.

Their complaints began with an article published by the *Canard* on October 10 under the title "The fear of a French Watergate—why Giscard organized the destruction of Bokassa's archives", and continued with a follow-up of the story which appeared in *Minute*.

The case of the two cousins is only a minor affair when compared to the story *Le Canard Enchaîné* has sought to publicize about President Giscard d'Estaing himself.

The issue of October 10 was only the latest in a long line of attacks the *Canard* has made on the President. The magazine's sources often tend to be disgruntled civil servants who take photographs of documents which often fall flat when published.

This was the fate of a copy of the President's tax returns published in June, and the fact that the Bokassa diamonds affair was possibly doomed to meet the same fate may have prompted the magazine not to give it anything more than a good front-page show on October 10.

What was published then was a letter allegedly signed by former Emperor Bokassa in 1973 ordering the placement of diamonds for the President, who was then Minister of Finance.

When journalists interviewed the President on television on November 27, the diamonds question was turned back at the *Canard* with the remark: "One must allow base things to die in their own poison".

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Cardinal speaks
in favour of
Belgian priestFrom Peter Nichols
Rome, Dec 12

A statement in favour of Father Edward Schillebeeckx, the Belgian priest who teaches at the Dutch Catholic University of Nijmegen, was issued today by Cardinal Willebrands, the Dutch primate.

Cardinal Willebrands, speaking on the eve of the hearings against Father Schillebeeckx's work, expressed his conviction that the theologian "was not teaching an heretical doctrine or departing from orthodoxy".

Father Schillebeeckx's teaching, he said, was the fruit of his Christian life of faith and of dedication to the church. Few theologians in the church today were on the same level.

Business Diary, page 19

Jeweller's death blamed on dipped lights

From Ian Murray
Paris, Dec 12

A year-long experiment nibbling motorists to drive on dipped headlights in built-up areas seems almost certain to be dropped by the French Government in the new year. The experiment, which was started on October 1, has run into strong opposition from drivers and motoring organizations.

Recent statistics have added to the argument. These show that 351 people died in road accidents in towns during October this year, compared with 330 last year. On the other hand, the death rate for the month of roads outside built-up areas fell from 828 last year to 778 this year.

But the road death which brought the campaign to a head was on Saturday evening when

M. Robert Hocq, managing director of Carlier, the jeweller, was knocked down and killed while he was crossing the road in the Place Vendôme near his shop.

Reacting to the accident, the driver of the car involved in the accident, told the police that she was blinded by the lights of other cars shining up from the roadway.

The measure was originally introduced by the Interministerial Committee for Road Safety, which argued that a large number of pedestrians and cyclists were killed in towns apparently because they could not see cars travelling with side lights.

On Sunday, the day after M. Hocq's death, a national committee against the use of dipped

headlights was formed in St. Etienne under the joint presidency of M. René Bideau, president of the French Association of Opticians, and Bruno Marin, the former trial director of Matra formula one cars.

Newspapers joined in the attack in the face of a Government statement to the Senate on Monday that the experiment must be allowed to run for a year for it to be properly tested.

But yesterday evening, M. Joël Le Theule, the Minister of Transport, announced to the Senate that at the beginning of the spring session he would give a review of the experiment and put an end to it if there were more than six months or more earlier than he was originally prepared to do.

Business Diary, page 19

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PARLIAMENT, December 12, 1979

Rugby unions urged to bear in mind implications of tour

House of Commons

The Government hoped that anyone responsible for staging tours such as those proposed to South Africa was aware of the implications, Mr Hector Moppe, Under Secretary for the Environment and Minister for Sport, said at a question time.

Mr. Tom Dailly (West Lothian, Lab) had asked Mr Moppe for a statement on his discussions with the rugby union of Scotland, Ireland and Wales on proposed tours of South Africa.

Mr Moppe (Dumfriesshire, C) said the Government was fully aware of the implications of such proposed tours and from South Africa as set out in our statement of September 14. This was again made clear during my recent informal meeting with the chairman of the Tours Committee.

Mr Dailly—Would not British participation in the Olympic and Commonwealth Games be jeopardised? (Conservative shouting "no")

Mr Moppe—We hope anyone responsible for staging such a tour will be aware of the implications. Rugby Union is not an Olympic sport. It is for the Government to decide which country should participate.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) Why has the adopted attitude been to propose tours to South Africa? Taking tours to South Africa can educate the people of South Africa and speed up the process that is already taking place in that country.

If he accepts the attitude that he has expressed, and I find it difficult to believe that he does, how can we hold our consciences clear of one of the most barbaric and totalitarian countries in the world? (Conservative shouting "hears")

Mr Moppe—The Government's position is made clear from the statement on September 14. We will discuss possible changes with Commonwealth countries and when sufficient progress has been made towards integration of sport in South Africa.

Mr Ray Hughes (Newport, Lab)—

Last evening a meeting took place in the House between representatives of the Home Tours Committee of the Rugby Union and the sports group of the Parliamentary Labour Party at which it was indicated that no decision has yet been made about the proposed tour.

Would Mr Moppe prevail upon the rugby authorities not to underwrite a tour which is clearly in mind if it is necessary to honour the Gleneagles agreement in the spirit and the letter?

Mr Moppe—The Rugby Unions can be in no doubt as to the Government's position.

Mr Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham, C)—Why is the Government involved in this matter at all? What has the Government got to do with it?

Mr Moppe—The Government is concerned to implement the Commonwealth agreement and we have made perfectly clear to the Rugby Unions what our position is.

Mr Denis Howell, Opposition spokesman on sport (Birmingham, small Heath, Lab) The Minister has taken a strong, sensible, civilised and intelligent stand on this matter which will have the support of all.

The Olympic Games is the only opportunity in the world when the youth of the world from all nations, irrespective of background, political, colour or religion, comes together freely. That must be the aim of the tour and preserve rather than surrender.

Mr Moppe—Many sporting bodies share his fears about the future. I am sure the Rugby Unions will have heard what has been said in the House of Commons and will bear in mind any possible implications.

Fall in council staffs represents a start

An increase in local authority employment since the Government asked for a curb on further recruitment in the interests of economy is being reported by Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services (Bristol, C).

He said yesterday that on September 9, 1979, the general manpower figures, published today (Wednesday), showed a 12.7% fall in the number of staff in local authorities in England and Wales.

This figure represented a decrease of 11,071 full-time equivalent staff since June 1978 but were still 18,185 up on the figure for September, 1978.

Mr King—Councils are still employing more staff than at this time last year. The fall in the employment of local authority staff is standing at an all-time high.

Mr King—I certainly hope all MPs, and particularly those who are most profuse in their complaints about savage cuts in local government, will be able to see the man in the street. Right across a wide category of employment in local authorities there is a continuing increase since the Government asked for a curb on further employment in the needs of economy.

Mr Allan Roberts (Bosley, Lab)—Even Conservative local authorities are standing out in opposition to the Government's policies. Within local government, particularly among Conservative councils, there is a strong feeling that the proposal the Government is making to pay local authority chairman and councillors is a cynical and mercenary move by the Government to pay off Tory local councillors who are helping to pay for the Government's policies. (Labour cheers)

Mr King—The reductions we are seeking are nothing like as savage as those imposed on local authorities by the former Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Peter Shore (Tower Hamlets, Steepney and Poplar, Lab), as a result of the 1978 election.

One of the problems we face is that, having earlier recognized the need for economy he invited various local authorities to plan for growth which was a totally irresponsible call in the light of the economic situation. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Robin Squires (Havering, Hornchurch, C)—One of the restructuring factors in reducing local government staff is the determination of certain Labour authorities to carry on as if nothing had changed. (Conservative cheers)

Mr King—We have had some well-publicized statements by some Labour Members of Parliament of responsible authorities now recognize the seriousness of the situation.

I would certainly hope that while we still have a considerable way to go, this decrease represents a start and we shall look to local authorities to make the necessary savings. We would hope to see further encouraging trends in this respect. (Conservative cheers)

Local authority employment had gone up from 1.5m to 2.5m in the last 15 years and that, as a result, the number of local authorities in certain areas, Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, said during one question time.

What he said was that while the number of local authorities was increasing, the number of staff was falling. This was a sign of progress, he said.

Mr King said the department was discussing with the local authorities the possibility of extending to publish local authority manpower figures to all local authorities.

The department had also invited them to discuss what manpower figures might be published locally.

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Role of reserve forces in nation's defence

House of Lords

The armed services depended not only on individual recruitment but on the mobilization of reserves to complete the order of battle, Lord Glenarthur (C) said when he opened a short debate on the subject.

He said the main purpose of the reserves was to complete the commitment to the nation of a secure United Kingdom base.

It was argued, at a time of national emergency, that the reserves in the defence budget was not as much in the interests of the nation as the social services and other areas of the welfare state.

Expense was one thing but value for money was another. For the Territorial Army to the nation was just over 3 per cent of the arms share of the defence vote, or 1 per cent of the total defence budget. Yet the Territorial Army provided 28 per cent of the mobilized army in Germany. This was considerable value for money.

Lord Glenarthur (Lab) said he had repeatedly advocated the need for strengthening the reserve forces. If they were on talking and talking without doing anything, one fine day they would catch it in the neck and have to return to conscription.

Lord Glenarthur (C) said there was a need for a gradual increase in the reserve forces, mostly for mobilization purposes in the United Kingdom. He believed the bill would exist to man those reserve forces. Reserve forces were an essential component for a sound defence policy.

The Earl of Avon (C) said the attitude had changed over the years. He said the reserves were a part of the national defence effort and should be given the same respect as the regular forces.

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A French threat of blackmail fails

The devaluation of the Green Pound would be of great importance to British agriculture and would add some £150m to farmers' returns in a full year, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement on the meeting of EEC agriculture ministers in Brussels on December 10 and 11.

At my request (said the EEC Commission) proposed a 5 per cent devaluation of the Green Pound in order to boost the resources available to British agriculture.

The devaluation will take effect on December 17 for all the main commodities except cereals and oil seeds. The change will take place at the start of the next marketing year on August 1, 1980. For wine, the devaluation will take effect on December 1, 1980.

The effect on consumer prices will amount to one quarter of one per cent on the retail price index, but it will be many months before the full effect of the 5 per cent increase reaches the shops.

The Council also agreed a 5 per cent devaluation of the Italian green lira.

The Council agreed a mandate for the Commission to negotiate voluntary restraint arrangements by three countries exporting sheepmeat to the United Kingdom.

We have been able (said the Minister) to bring about a number of concessions by assuring them that the end result will be independent of the Government's good faith.

The Government would like to see the Government's view to leave the issue in domestic hands for the time being. It is also important that the arrangements to be made on independence should be known by the public.

The Bill provided for the establishment of the independent public of Zimbabwe. It followed that on independence the Parliament and Government would no longer have responsibility for Southern Rhodesia. The remaining provisions of the Bill would be dealt with in a separate Bill.

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The prize: Bill maps out the way to independence of Zimbabwe: Governor there 'only matter of weeks'

It was important that everybody in Rhodesia should know that the British Government was fulfilling its part of the bargain, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, said in moving the second reading of the Zimbabwe Bill. The Bill was the final step in the implementation of a settlement.

He added that an order under the Southern Rhodesia Act, 1979, to provide for the holding of elections, would be laid before the Queen in Council this evening (Wednesday) and the Commons would have an opportunity to debate it at a later stage.

Sir Ian Gilmour said that with the Governor's arrival in Salisbury today, legally had been restored and remaining sanctions would be lifted. The Bill would be laid before the Queen in Council this evening and further necessary action would be taken by the Treasury and the Department of Trade in respect of exchange control and the import and export duties.

The Zimbabwe Bill was the last major step in the process of restoring legality, unwinding the measures taken in response to UDI, and of bringing into effect the constitutional changes reached at the constitutional conference. The Bill's passage would be a crucial test of the Government's good faith.

We have been able (said the Minister) to bring about a number of concessions by assuring them that the end result will be independent of the Government's good faith.

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Post Office workers on board plan may lapse

However he cares to dress this up, at a time when industrial relations throughout the country are at their lowest, this attitude will be seen as an attack on the trade union movement and on industrial peace.

Mr Keith Joseph (Leeds, North East, C)—He is wrong in suggesting that Mr Varley had to impose trade union participation in the main board of Sir William Barlow. It is for the Post Office management and the unions to agree on the way forward. I shall, of course, be ready to take any action that might fall to me to facilitate whatever new arrangements have been made by the Post Office and the unions.

If an agreement were to be reached within the next few months which required such action, this could include bringing before Parliament an Order under the Industrial Relations Act 1977 to make permanent the statutory powers to make appointments to the main board.

However, in the absence of agreement that the two year experiment should continue, the Government would have to consider the purpose of that experiment which lapsed at the end of the year. I am not sure that the Government's intention for the contribution made by all those who have played a part in this experiment.

Mr John Silkin, chief Opposition spokesman on industry (Leeds, West, Lab)—He says it is clear there is disagreement between the Post Office management and the unions on whether to continue the experiment. Was not that always, from the beginning?

Mr Keith Joseph—He would not be happy if the Government were to allow the experiment to continue. I understand that Sir William Barlow, in whom I have great confidence, would be more persuasive if something could be seen to be done to help correct the imbalance. There was a desire to correct the fundamental distortions.

Mr Neil Blaney (Ireland, Ind) said the imbalance in the budget was increasing rather than decreasing. It was not clear that the Government had sufficient funds to help those countries which needed the help.

However, the country ought to think about the amount of commodities it was buying from third countries outside the Community, thus causing surplus to build up. If we buy from third countries, we must ask what this Community is all about (he said).

If they were to dismantle tariff barriers and duties, was it not fair to allow those who depended on them to be able to export their basic agricultural industry to be given an opportunity to sell their products at the highest price within the Community and not find themselves in surplus and thus accused of causing the greatest expenditure?

Mr Barbara Castle (Manchester, North, Lab) leader of the United Kingdom Labour M.P.s, said anyone reading the communiqué after the Dublin summit must have been struck by the fact that she had seldom read a more superficial document. Europe was drifting deeper into crisis year by year. There was a need for a longer-term plan for economic and social development for which the Community was responsible.

Already Mrs Thatcher had retreated from her drive to rectify the injustices being done to Britain by Community policies. Britain's Community problem was part of a wider Community problem of endemic inability to reform itself.

She was not surprised that the other heads of government found Mrs Thatcher's behaviour irritating. The Community was not a member state. The parliament should then be able to appoint its own members.

The Prime Minister of the country which had the presidency required to attend the Parliament and be questioned. That would be a sobering exercise.

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Report December 12-1979

Decision that Italian families were 'intentionally homeless' upheld

Capacity of a trade union to protect its members

Falco v Crawley Borough Council
Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Bridge, Sir David Cairns

A Court of Appeal declined to rescind a local authority's decision to provide accommodation for two young Italian families, where the authority had said that they were "intentionally homeless" by coming to this country without having secured permanent accommodation.

REGULATIONS No 1612/68, s. 3(1) provided: "A person who is a national of a member state and who is employed in the city of another member state enjoys all the rights and is accorded the same treatment as in matters of housing."

De Falco had been out of Italy for some time and his wife and two children had been living in the United Kingdom for some time. The family had been living in the United Kingdom for some time and his wife and two children had been living in the United Kingdom for some time.

MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case was another example of the advancing tide of the Common Market. It was a case where a family of four, consisting of a husband, a wife and two children, had been living in the United Kingdom for some time.

The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family.

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Inc v China Salvage Co
McGowan Branch
 n 27 of the Arbitration Act (which gave the court power to order time for commencing proceedings) should be a wide and liberal interpretation, the Court of Appeal said.

Lord Justice Bridge said that there was considerable force in two grounds on which the applicants attacked the council's decision that they became homeless intentionally: that it had regard to an irrelevant consideration that they came to the United Kingdom from Italy; and that there was no finding or material to justify a finding that on leaving Italy the applicants deliberately did or failed to do anything in consequence of which they ceased to occupy accommodation available which it would have been reasonable for them to continue to occupy. But his Lordship was not prepared to dissent from the view of his brother judges.

On the subsidiary point his Lordship considered the period contemplated by section 4(3) began when the local authority's adverse decision on intentional homelessness was communicated to the applicant and on that basis the period allowed was so short that no reasonable authority could have thought it sufficient to satisfy the section's requirements; but since the writ had been issued, time had elapsed during which the applicants had again been provided with accommodation so that it could not now be said it did not afford the reasonable opportunity contemplated by section 4(3).

Such a request complied entirely with section 17, and the applicants had no ground for upsetting the finding of intentional homelessness. Throughout the Act there were words requiring the authority to be "satisfied" or "not satisfied", so its findings must have been in mind the law as stated in the ASLEP case ([1974] 2 QB 433) and other cases and endorsed in the context of the Act by the Lord Chief Justice in *R v Brent City Council, Ex parte Bryans* ([1979] 3 All ER 344).

The applicants said that the council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family.

If that paragraph were to be treated as a finding of fact, the council could not be held to have acted reasonably in refusing to provide accommodation for the family. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family.

But his Lordship was quite clear that the code should not be regarded as a binding strait-jacket. The council had to have regard to it under section 17, but having done so they could depart from it if they thought fit. The present case was one where they were perfectly entitled to depart from it.

The decision of Mr Justice Stephen Brown in *Hillier v Mole Valley District Council* (unreported, October 23, 1979) when he granted an injunction requiring the council to provide accommodation for a family of four was a landmark case. The council had been asked to provide accommodation for the family.

LORD JUSTICE BRIDGE, agreeing, said that having regard to the mischief which section 27 was intended to cure, it should be given a wide and liberal interpretation. **SIR DAVID CAIRNS**, also agreeing, said that a narrow meaning to the word "claims" would be so restrictive as to be contrary to the intention of Parliament.

Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union v Times Newspapers Ltd and Others
Before Mr Justice O'Connor

The hearing continued of three preliminary issues of law to be determined before the trial of an action for libel brought by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union against Times Newspapers Ltd in respect of two articles published in *The Times* on November 18, 1977, and alleged to be defamatory of the union.

The three questions were: (1) Can a trade union (not being a special register body) maintain an action in its own name for damages for defamation in relation to its reputation as a legal entity, whether or not such entity is separate and distinct from its individual members? (2) If the answer to question (1) is in the affirmative, is any such cause of action dependent upon proof of damage to the union's property or special damage suffered by the union? (3) Is such a union able to maintain an action for damages on behalf of each and every one of its individual members in the name of the union (without identifying any particular members or member) in relation to a publication which imputes their several reputations as members of the union?

Mr Lester, resuming the argument for *The Times* defendants, said that in the light of the majority decision of the House of Lords in *Borwick v Musicians' Union* ([1956] AC 190) the correct basis for the decision in *National Union of General and Municipal Workers v Gillman* ([1945] 2 All ER 283) was no longer that a

trade union was a legal entity with a special personality, but that by virtue of the Trade Union Acts trade unions were to be regarded as near-corporations or quasi-corporations and able to sue in defamation on that basis.

In the *Borwick* case Lord Justice Denning was right in explaining that a libel was in its very nature a wrong to the person and that it was only by attributing legal personality to a trade union that it could be permitted to sue for a libel on itself. In that respect there was an obvious difference between proceedings for libel and other proceedings in tort, where the doctrine of agency would apply. Lord Justice Denning was wrong in the *Borwick* case, however, in suggesting that a trade union had full corporate personality as a separate entity rather than quasi-corporate personality, the view which prevailed with the House of Lords in that case.

As regarded unincorporated associations generally, of which a trade union was only one species of the genus, the condition of quasi-corporate personality could only arise as a result of a statute or a charter. Each case regarding unincorporated associations must be determined on the construction of the particular statute creating or establishing the association—in this case the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974—to determine whether it granted quasi-corporate personality to the association.

The defendants submitted that there were only four bodies or persons which could be used or used as for libel: (a) a corporate body; (b) a partnership (with special rules); (c) a quasi-corporate body created by statute; (d) a natural person.

The first phase of industrial law ended with the Industrial Relations Act 1971, the second phase, which altered the status of trade unions by conferring corporate status upon them. The Act also removed the general immunity in tort (which had been conferred by section 41 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906), but it continued the immunity for acts done in contemplation or furtherance of trade disputes. It might well be that historical dialikes of the *Taff Vale* case ([1901] AC 426) and the 1906 Act itself by the trade union movement explained the prohibition on treating trade unions as corporate bodies in the 1974 Act.

The third phase was covered by the 1974 Act. It was submitted that section 2(1) (c), which conferred the capacity to sue and be sued in the union's own name in any proceedings whatever, was a procedural and not a substantive provision.

The defendants also submitted that the first question an argument based on reciprocity. That had much wider implications merely than for the tort of defamation. It was submitted that section 2(1) (c) was expressly made "subject to section 14, and by the use of those words Parliament made the scope of the capacity to sue subject to the scope of the capacity to be sued. It was the correlative argument.

On question 2, it was conceded that the weight of authority was against the defendants, but they wished to reserve their position.

Question 3 had been put by the plaintiffs, and it was therefore left to be opened by the plaintiffs and dealt with by the defendants on reply.

Mr Kempster, for the plaintiff, said that since 1913 it was generally accepted that a trade union could sue for damage to its reputation, and if the defendants' point on the effect of the provisions of section 2 of the 1974 Act was upheld it would change a practice, an attitude and an assumption that had long been held.

On *Borwick* counsel submitted that there was a balance in the House of Lords in favour of the view that a trade union was, or was at the time, a legal entity, and it did not matter whether it was to be distinguished from the membership as a whole or not. If it was to be regarded as a legal entity in law as it was regarded in fact, then it had sufficient personality, sufficient reputation to warrant the law extending to that entity a right to protect and vindicate that reputation in the Queen's courts.

In regard to the 1974 Act, the plaintiffs submitted that when the statute referred to a corporation it could not at the same time refer to an unincorporated body. It was also submitted that there was no presumption, particularly when dealing with legislation relating to trade unions, that any golden rule of reciprocity was intended.

At the time when the 1974 Act was enacted it was well known in all relevant circles that there existed corporations, ordinary human beings and bodies which were not corporations but had some of their attributes and could be regarded as quasi-corporations, and which as a result of such capacity had a legal personality sufficient to support a reputation and therefore to guard and safeguard such reputation. The material

words in section 2(1) "shall not be, or be treated as if it were, a body corporate" meant no more and no less than that a trade union was not to be treated as, and was not, a corporation in the full sense of such a corporation as might be established by grant from the Crown or by incorporation pursuant to the Companies Act, 1948.

Then the draftsman went on to confer on such an organization of workers a whole series of incidents which were only consistent with the intention to give the organization quasi-corporate status, a personality in law and, for the purposes of the present proceedings, a reputation which, for the discharge of its functions, the organization would need to protect.

Sub-sections (a) to (c) indicated that the organization would not be a corporation in the full sense nor be treated in any way as a corporation in the full sense, but none-theless would enjoy those incidents which the courts historically had found to be characteristic of a quasi-corporation.

Further sections in the Act made that apparent and, indeed, would render the effect and purpose and meaning of the statute wholly inexplicable were any other construction put on them. In the plaintiffs' submission the meaning of section 2(1) was that an organization of workers, being a trade union, was not, and was not to be treated as, a corporate body, but being an unincorporated association was to be treated with quasi-corporate status, such status being sufficient to enjoy a reputation, and a reputation which it was entitled, pursuant to section 2(1)(c), to protect. The hearing was adjourned.

Capacity of a trade union to protect its members

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The three questions were: (1) Can a trade union (not being a special register body) maintain an action in its own name for damages for defamation in relation to its reputation as a legal entity, whether or not such entity is separate and distinct from its individual members? (2) If the answer to question (1) is in the affirmative, is any such cause of action dependent upon proof of damage to the union's property or special damage suffered by the union? (3) Is such a union able to maintain an action for damages on behalf of each and every one of its individual members in the name of the union (without identifying any particular members or member) in relation to a publication which imputes their several reputations as members of the union?

Mr Lester, resuming the argument for *The Times* defendants, said that in the light of the majority decision of the House of Lords in *Borwick v Musicians' Union* ([1956] AC 190) the correct basis for the decision in *National Union of General and Municipal Workers v Gillman* ([1945] 2 All ER 283) was no longer that a

trade union was a legal entity with a special personality, but that by virtue of the Trade Union Acts trade unions were to be regarded as near-corporations or quasi-corporations and able to sue in defamation on that basis.

In the *Borwick* case Lord Justice Denning was right in explaining that a libel was in its very nature a wrong to the person and that it was only by attributing legal personality to a trade union that it could be permitted to sue for a libel on itself. In that respect there was an obvious difference between proceedings for libel and other proceedings in tort, where the doctrine of agency would apply. Lord Justice Denning was wrong in the *Borwick* case, however, in suggesting that a trade union had full corporate personality as a separate entity rather than quasi-corporate personality, the view which prevailed with the House of Lords in that case.

As regarded unincorporated associations generally, of which a trade union was only one species of the genus, the condition of quasi-corporate personality could only arise as a result of a statute or a charter. Each case regarding unincorporated associations must be determined on the construction of the particular statute creating or establishing the association—in this case the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974—to determine whether it granted quasi-corporate personality to the association.

The defendants submitted that there were only four bodies or persons which could be used or used as for libel: (a) a corporate body; (b) a partnership (with special rules); (c) a quasi-corporate body created by statute; (d) a natural person.

The first phase of industrial law ended with the Industrial Relations Act 1971, the second phase, which altered the status of trade unions by conferring corporate status upon them. The Act also removed the general immunity in tort (which had been conferred by section 41 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906), but it continued the immunity for acts done in contemplation or furtherance of trade disputes. It might well be that historical dialikes of the *Taff Vale* case ([1901] AC 426) and the 1906 Act itself by the trade union movement explained the prohibition on treating trade unions as corporate bodies in the 1974 Act.

The third phase was covered by the 1974 Act. It was submitted that section 2(1) (c), which conferred the capacity to sue and be sued in the union's own name in any proceedings whatever, was a procedural and not a substantive provision.

The defendants also submitted that the first question an argument based on reciprocity. That had much wider implications merely than for the tort of defamation. It was submitted that section 2(1) (c) was expressly made "subject to section 14, and by the use of those words Parliament made the scope of the capacity to sue subject to the scope of the capacity to be sued. It was the correlative argument.

On question 2, it was conceded that the weight of authority was against the defendants, but they wished to reserve their position.

Question 3 had been put by the plaintiffs, and it was therefore left to be opened by the plaintiffs and dealt with by the defendants on reply.

Mr Kempster, for the plaintiff, said that since 1913 it was generally accepted that a trade union could sue for damage to its reputation, and if the defendants' point on the effect of the provisions of section 2 of the 1974 Act was upheld it would change a practice, an attitude and an assumption that had long been held.

On *Borwick* counsel submitted that there was a balance in the House of Lords in favour of the view that a trade union was, or was at the time, a legal entity, and it did not matter whether it was to be distinguished from the membership as a whole or not. If it was to be regarded as a legal entity in law as it was regarded in fact, then it had sufficient personality, sufficient reputation to warrant the law extending to that entity a right to protect and vindicate that reputation in the Queen's courts.

In regard to the 1974 Act, the plaintiffs submitted that when the statute referred to a corporation it could not at the same time refer to an unincorporated body. It was also submitted that there was no presumption, particularly when dealing with legislation relating to trade unions, that any golden rule of reciprocity was intended.

At the time when the 1974 Act was enacted it was well known in all relevant circles that there existed corporations, ordinary human beings and bodies which were not corporations but had some of their attributes and could be regarded as quasi-corporations, and which as a result of such capacity had a legal personality sufficient to support a reputation and therefore to guard and safeguard such reputation. The material

words in section 2(1) "shall not be, or be treated as if it were, a body corporate" meant no more and no less than that a trade union was not to be treated as, and was not, a corporation in the full sense of such a corporation as might be established by grant from the Crown or by incorporation pursuant to the Companies Act, 1948.

Then the draftsman went on to confer on such an organization of workers a whole series of incidents which were only consistent with the intention to give the organization quasi-corporate status, a personality in law and, for the purposes of the present proceedings, a reputation which, for the discharge of its functions, the organization would need to protect.

Sub-sections (a) to (c) indicated that the organization would not be a corporation in the full sense nor be treated in any way as a corporation in the full sense, but none-theless would enjoy those incidents which the courts historically had found to be characteristic of a quasi-corporation.

Further sections in the Act made that apparent and, indeed, would render the effect and purpose and meaning of the statute wholly inexplicable were any other construction put on them. In the plaintiffs' submission the meaning of section 2(1) was that an organization of workers, being a trade union, was not, and was not to be treated as, a corporate body, but being an unincorporated association was to be treated with quasi-corporate status, such status being sufficient to enjoy a reputation, and a reputation which it was entitled, pursuant to section 2(1)(c), to protect. The hearing was adjourned.

Capacity of a trade union to protect its members

Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union v Times Newspapers Ltd and Others

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The army that must be cut

It has been as a result of combined

and cutting down bureaucracy, whose

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Hell can be just speaking to a friend

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...rience is

illage in a barren area of the Orange Free State, an area in which she has no connections. She is, of course, confined there; she is also confined to her home every night, throughout every week-end and on all public holidays. Naturally, she may not attend any gatherings; naturally, she may not publish anything nor

extremely difficult for her to be reached by telephone; she herself has no telephone, of course. But there is a call-box at which she waits by arrangement with her friends so that they can call her there. But callers now find that either there is no answer, or that the telephone is picked up and immediately put down.

the and that such reality will come to the masses of my people. Your solidarity means so much to me. Yours is the brotherhood of man and love to each member of your family.

Yours always,

Nomzamo Winnie Mandela.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1979

The gun battle which followed is one of the epics of naval warfare, it lasted from the morning until nightfall, the first exchanges being the most dramatic. Exeter was severely damaged, but con-

Meanwhile, the eyes of the world turned on to the harbor. Press and radio coverage ceased. Every movement on board Graf Spee was monitored. British sailors, freed at told their stories. Berlin named a "victory" and claimed that Graf Spee had

of Defence, congratulated the Royal Navy on a "brave and successful action" and said: "We can all be proud of the part played by the Royal Navy in the defence of the British Isles." He said the forces being assembled to attack the enemy.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

HINE

JAS HENNESSY & C°
COGNAC

Hennessy. The connoisseurs' cognac

creditors in Britain. The un-
said 1. "This agreement
written in such a way as
Otto Preminger could actu-
be sent to prison, by either
English or New York cou-
f it is broken."
The film is now in

who founded the festival, said they were really a pawn in a local political struggle. But the festival has won influential supporters among people with summer villas in the area, and after pressure from such notables as Sir Georg Solti and the novelists

Open Space keeps going
Made homeless by delays in development plans, Charles Marowitz's Open Space theatre is becoming a troupe of wandering players.

Meanwhile, the company's winter plans are continuing: in the summer, Merowatz hopes to stage a season at the Round House with the version of

...decided on the subject
before Covent Garden
ed him up.
the opera a future Britain
veloped by a new ice age.
king and the court decamp
France, following the route
the English armies in the
dred Years War, but as

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o on stage. "I steered
the platform. He just
e completely bemused
rked his head; he di
remember to bow."
Martin Hucks

10

Here, the connoisseurs cognize

The film is now in

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leading a troupe of wandering
players.

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the English armies in the
dred Years War; but as

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Age Group	Should take action (%)	Should not take action (%)
18-29	85	15
30-49	75	25
50-69	65	35
70+	55	45



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PARLIAMENT SHOULD FIGHT

The question of how big a role could be played by a directly elected European Parliament has been a head very quickly. It is a matter of months after the summer's elections. Not surprisingly, it has taken the form of a conflict between the House of Commons and the Council of Ministers, representing the nine national governments, over the Community budget. The Parliament is trying to make a small, largely symbolic cut in spending on the common agricultural policy, and increase spending on other areas, such as regional development, job creation, scientific research and energy projects. A Council has rejected the Parliament's proposals and, the Parliament now has the choice of either accepting the cut in the draft budget sent to the Council or rejecting it. Rejection would be a serious step, because it would cause a great deal of disruption of Community activity. But many members of the House of Commons are convinced that the importance of the need to cut cultural spending and the need for real control by a directly elected Parliament could be achieved by such a step. It is no question that total control of the budget is a very serious weapon, which would be difficult to use in many different areas. But it is the only one that the Parliament has. It is a question of whether it is used or not. The House of Commons has not yet decided whether to use it. The House of Commons has not yet decided whether to use it.

constituents' interests, and for the majority of it makes no sense at all to devote about three-quarters of the budget to the common agricultural policy, which is wasteful and ineffective as it is. Over the years many attempts have been made to bring it under control. But the Council of Ministers has so far failed to achieve this largely because of the pressures brought to bear on the national governments by farming interests. So now the European Parliament, in which consumers have greater influence than agricultural producers, should add its weight to the pressures for reform. For Britain the issue is complicated by the separate question of how to get satisfaction from its partners on its own net budget contributions, still unresolved after the Dublin summit. It is possible that if a crisis develops over the Parliament's rejection of the budget, this will distract governments' attention from Britain's demand. It could take months to get a new budget agreed, and during that time the Community will be operating with makeshift arrangements, many of them untried in the past. But this is a short-term consideration, while the long-term interest of Britain must be to support a move that is designed to get a more rational pattern of spending in the Community budget. For this reason we think that Britain was misguided in deciding not to vote with Italy and The Netherlands in favour of the amendments made to the draft budget by the Parliament, which could have ensured their adoption. More fundamentally, it must be right to encourage the development of the European Parliament into a more effective influence in Community affairs. The idea is

resisted by those in this country, in France and elsewhere who are afraid of anything that appears to encroach on national powers of decision-making; and there is always the fear that, though the Parliament is now taking a course which suits British interests, on another occasion there might be a majority for a policy quite opposed to those interests. But it is clear that even at its present stage of development, the Community very much needs a counterweight to the Council of Ministers. If only to draw attention to the necessity for reform of the common agricultural policy. At the same time the Parliament's powers are very limited, and even if they are used to the full, in rejecting the budget, for instance, it will still be a long way from rivaling the Council of Ministers. If the budget is rejected, that will be enough to cause disruption, but not to bring the Community to a halt. Payments from the member states will continue to come into Brussels in the normal way, and there is a procedure for making monthly outlays, based on one-twelfth of the previous year's expenditure. It would be a difficult time, because many of the procedures are untried, including one which provides for extra spending each month provided it is adopted by a qualified majority in the Council of Ministers. But it would not be too high a price to pay for drawing attention dramatically to two things that are very much needed in the Community: a more rational pattern of spending, and a more effective influence in Community affairs. The idea is

EXCLUSION WITHOUT REASON IS UNJUST

City of London is the only authority in England and Wales still to retain aldermen. One of the reasons given at the time for allowing the City to keep its aldermen was that its aldermen were democratically elected. In the rest of the country, before they were abolished, the time of local government organization were appointed by the political party in control of the council. In July last, a local election was held in the City of London's wards. Residents were entitled to vote, as were businessmen in the area. They voted in favour of Mr Donald Silk, a local City. The City's Court of Aldermen, ever, refused to admit him to its ranks, and that refusal has now been upheld by the Divisional Court. The decision is a landmark. It is, more, not the first time that the

Court of Aldermen has refused to accept the result of an election. On two occasions in recent years Mrs. Edwina Coven has suffered the same rebuff now handed out to Mr Silk. The Court's members behave like an old-fashioned club, not like a democratic body, and rely for their right to exclude Mr Silk on a case from as far back as 1839. The Court of Aldermen has indeed an ancient and honourable tradition in the City of London. That should not, however, enable it to behave in this autocratic and feudal manner, and to dispense with the basic principles of fairness and justice. The Court failed to put forward any reasonable grounds for considering Mr Silk to be not a fit and suitable person for membership. He was not told at the time why he had been rejected, nor was he given any opportunity to be heard. He was at no stage given the opportunity to respond to any criticism against him which

might have been relevant in the Court's decision not to admit him. Mr Silk is a divorced man, and that seems to have been mentioned informally as a ground for rejection. That could come nowhere near disqualifying him from being an alderman. The Court would have been entitled to have excluded him on the grounds that, for instance, he had been guilty of business malpractices which, although not criminal, did not meet the high standards demanded of an alderman and prospective Lord Mayor of London. But nothing of that nature has been even remotely hinted at. The conclusion to be drawn is that the Court of Aldermen wished not to have Mr Silk because, simply, its members did not like him. That is not a good enough reason to overturn an election. The Court has abused its powers, and shown a lack of the dignity and fairness expected of such a respected institution.

DESIRABLE BUT UNLIKELY TO BE BUILT

In every general election, a number of new MPs hurry to minister, more or less, to the idea of a new Parliament, and the significance of their own future efforts in it, find with incredulity that the accommodation provided for a compares unfavourably with space they once had to do their homework in at school. This was no exception, and new members of all parties went in a hurry to the Leader in House, Mr John Stevens, nearly half of them were out desk, telephone or filing net. Many of the cramped desks were inserted from time to time former courtrooms and light-rooms of the Palace of Westminster, and only 60 have the privilege of an 'e' to themselves. The effect is a member can provide to his constituents and the country can be measured but it must be desirable. Those new members of last May have not yet fallen into the mon habit of taking pride in privations of their work may be a body of support for the new parliamentary building as the street from Big Ben.

In spite of Mr St. John-Stevens' words of goodwill yesterday, the Government itself, committed as it is to the control of public spending, cannot be expected to regard the plan with very much warmth: the time is scarcely ripe. It is not, for 25 years, the period during which proposals of this kind have been under consideration. The building is likely to cost £120m—a figure which has to be compared not only with the £5,400,000 which was set (unrealistically, even then) as the price ceiling in the competition of 1971, but also with the likely cost of such a project in the 1990s. Sooner or later, regardless of ripeness, some government must take the plunge and set about providing the legislators with tolerable facilities for their work. In those 25 years we have seen a number of obtruse and monolithic projects, of which the most bizarre was one for a block wrapped round Westminster Hall, obliterating the best-known view of Parliament. The new scheme is a relatively modest and ingenious one. Some of the buildings on the site are well worth preserving, and almost all of these are incorporated either as

facades or as a whole in the new scheme. The block is no greater in apparent bulk than the buildings it replaces, though much roomier. Sir Hugh Casson, who has designed it, together with David Ramsey, is perhaps best known for the Elephant House at the London Zoo, a brilliant conception with, it is often remarked, an uncanny affinity with the animals it houses. The Bridge Street building, where the actual state of affairs is actually but incompletely concealed behind a variety of antique facades, may be thought to have a similar quality, though it does not have the same brilliance. That is not necessarily a fault in its sensitive context (Sir Hugh is known to hold the view that dullness in architecture is an underrated virtue). The design is rather cast into the shade by the imperial pomp of the Treasury Building in one direction and the polychrome eclecticism of the former Scotland Yard building in the other—to say nothing of Barry's masterpiece across the road—but it would not disgrace them, and it is perhaps as good as we can expect in the current age of architecture.

Cancelled meeting

I should like to correct the edition, which appears to have been from misunderstanding, that cancelling of the meeting at Sir Keith Joseph was to speak his polytechnic last Thursday (December 6) was anything to do with Sir Keith himself or the views he might have been putting forward. The senior officer of the polytechnic who cancelled the meeting was the officer ultimately responsible for conforming with the Health and Safety at Work Act and the decision because of the safety of holding a meeting in the building. A large number of the building were believed to have been damaged in preparation for occupation by students on an 'early' separate issue, that of over students' fees. The issue of the safety of the building was not involved. Sir Keith Joseph has been a well-known visitor to the City of London.

Polytechnic on a number of occasions and his meetings have been well attended and have given rise to lively and constructive debate. I look forward to rearranging, at an early date, the meeting that was to be held by the Conservative Students' Alliance. Yours sincerely, ARTHUR SUDDABY, The Provost, City of London Polytechnic, 117-119 Houndsditch, EC3.

Prayer Book language

From the General Secretary of the Church Union Sir Canon George Adkin (letter, December 6) cannot have it both ways. He cannot on the one hand claim that Catholics within the Church of England only "could" and never actually "would" use the new rite, and then on the other hand be upset when the Church Union, the leading Catholic body within the Church of England, actually uses the rite (in a non-parochial service held in an unconsecrated building), within 24 hours of General Synod having authorized it. The rite used that day was entirely within the bounds of the new service using the liberty given by the rubrics and notes contained within it, and minor variations allowable under Canon B5(1). Yours faithfully, PETER GELDARD, General Secretary, The Church Union, 7 Tufton Street, SW1, December 6.

Loyalty of Rhodesia civil servants

From Mr B. J. Lennox Sir, I refer to your leading article of December 6 and make exception of the historical and the civil service in Southern Rhodesia, which has a proud reputation of loyalty serving the government of the day. There is no doubt that the governments of Sir Godfrey Huggins, Garfield Todd and Sir Edgar Whitehead all served as loyally as those of Winston Field, Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa. At the unilateral declaration of independence in November, 1965, the governor, Sir Humphrey Gibbs, instructed civil servants to stay at their posts and this was endorsed in the House of Commons by the then Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson. On the declaration of a republic in March, 1970, the then Foreign Secretary, Mr James Callaghan, to the House, stated that the former Governor's instruction had lapsed. Our legal advisers tell us that a fundamental instruction, such as that given by the Governor, cannot be deemed to have lapsed without consultation between the parties and the offer and acceptance of reasonable alternatives. No consultation ever took place, nor were any reasonable alternatives offered to civil servants. The essence of this instruction is that the Governor's instruction is to be still binding. Our members will therefore serve Lord Soames as loyally as they have served any other head of government. Turning to your other allegation, I can assure you that, in all the negotiations on the security of pension, I have undertaken on behalf of this association with both ministers and civil servants in Britain, hatred and contempt have been noticeable by their absence on both sides. At its sixteenth annual conference in September, 1978, this association unanimously passed a resolution that its members wished to continue to serve any government which was elected to power as well as they had done in the previous 50 years. This position still pertains, both during the Governor's rule and regardless of who comes to power in the forthcoming elections. We do, however, hope that, in recognition of our efforts, her Majesty's Government will consider the Government with the new government under the Overseas Pensions Act, 1973, in order to safeguard our pensions. Yours faithfully, B. J. LENNOX, President, Public Services Association, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Licensing pornography From Mrs Dorothy Donaldson Hudson Sir, Councillor David Avery made a very valid point when he emphasized in his letter (Licensing pornography) that pornography is licensed in Soho has run riot. In the last few years over 200 shops, craft workshops, premises have been taken over by the pornographers to the economic detriment of the resident and business community. On November 7 the Soho Society handed to Mr Peter Brooke, MP for the City of London and Westminster South, a petition to the Secretary of State for the Environment asking that he "control, by means of legislation if necessary, the continuing proliferation of the sex industry in Soho, which operates to the disadvantage of residents, visitors, and businesses alike, and which is expanding with blatant disregard of town planning and other environmental controls." This petition was collected in less than four days and was signed by 847 people resident in Soho, each signature being obtained by private interview because a publicly distributed petition gave rise to fears amongst Soho residents of possible harassment by the big operators who we think are behind the individual purveyors of pornography. In addition to requiring all sex establishments to be licensed and controlled in the same way as betting shops, it would also appear to be necessary for legislation to be passed enabling swing fines to be levied for unlicensed and therefore illegal use of premises for pornographic purposes, whether soft or hard porn. The Soho Society opposes pornography, not on grounds of sexual immorality, but because the community is torn apart by its tolerance has been maintained to the limit. Let those misguided spokesmen who describe the findings of the Williams Committee as being a "licence to print the money" take a more realistic view and recognize that licensing is the only solution to this problem. Yours faithfully, DOROTHY DONALDSON HUDSON, The Soho Society, 57, Dean Street, W1, December 7.

Assisted places scheme

From Lady Wale-Cohen Sir, It is important that we should make clear that the assumption which Dr Michael Hooper made in his letter in today's issue (December 10) is based on a misunderstanding. The fees of every independent school are bound to include a component for capital expenditure. We are assured by the Department of Education and Science that there is every intention that the approved fees of the assisted places schools shall include a similar component. May I also say how much we in the Council support Sir Desmond Leary's letter (December 10). The independent schools have never wished that the opportunities they have to offer should be confined to the children of well-to-do parents. They welcome the chance which the assisted places scheme provides of opening their doors more widely. Yours faithfully, JOYCE WALEY-COHEN, Chairman of the Independent Schools Joint Council, 11 Little St James's Street, SW1, December 7.

Trees for kingfishers

From the Chairman of the Southern Water Authority Sir, Your correspondent, Alison Ross, in your issue (November 24) made the statement that "modern river management demands treeless banks", and asked that water authorities should provide alternative accommodation for kingfishers in the form of short posts on river banks. May I correct this statement with regard to river management and inform you that this authority is always ready to consider suggestions in the interests of nature conservation. The authority has recently approved a policy for the conservation of mature deciduous trees which has been discussed with nature conservation bodies, the Nature Conservancy Council, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and County Naturalists' Trusts, with whom we have arrangements for liaison and regular discussion on implementation and other matters of mutual concern. Generally, trees will be retained wherever possible so that, except on the widest rivers, the

Smoking in public places

From Professor Charles Fletcher

Sir, Mr Bernard Levin's article about bans on smoking (December 11) is not only full of gratuitous offence, but also with deception. Smoking is now a minority habit. Only 41 per cent of the whole population of the UK smoke and only 30 per cent of the professional classes. Cigarette smoke is so offensive to the non-smoking majority that something has to be done to control the minority. This is no doubt why the BBC instigated the debate on a ban on smoking in public places, in which both Mr Levin and I took part and to which he refers in his article. He accuses me of fanaticism in it, so let me describe what actually happened. I had prepared a reasoned approach to a ban on smoking in public places, but three minutes before the debate started Mr Levin insisted on making it totalitarian. For the sake of the programme we agreed. A few minutes later, Miss Stansfield asked me how a total ban on smoking could be enforced. I had to reply that it must be by fines and, of course if these fines were not paid, imprisonment would be the alternative sanction for contempt of court. The fanaticism of which Mr Levin accuses me was due solely to his own insistence that his side could only win the debate by making it ridiculous. Despite this, half of the audience voted in favour of the extreme motion. So lofly is Mr Levin after his "insight training" about which he wrote recently, that he didn't notice this remarkable demonstration of how many people now support stricter control of smoking. This fact, together with the vast numbers of people who kill themselves by smoking (at least 30,000 every year under the age of 65), seems to me to be a very strong case for a ban on smoking in public places. If the tobacco manufacturers were to address themselves to gradually reducing sales of their dangerous products, as every pharmaceutical manufacturer does once a drug is found to have dangerous side effects, and if it were not that at least half of all smokers desperately want help in stopping smoking, Mr Levin's libertarian approach might suffice. As it is, doctors are forced as they have been in many aspects of preventive medicine in the past to curtail the freedom of their patients. This is a serious problem, Sir, and one that deserves more thoughtful debate in your columns than Mr Levin's schoolboy abuse and his retreat from honest discussion in public debate. Yours faithfully, CHARLES FLETCHER, 20 Dreyton Gardens, SW10.

From Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris Sir, My colleagues and I in the Freedom Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco and our members have read Bernard Levin's article in today's issue (December 11) with personal pleasure and approval. We are particularly pleased that this article avoided the too-common error of arguing the case on a pro-smoking basis, but concentrating, particularly in the last paragraph on the need to preserve personal liberties and the freedom of opinion in this matter. This is precisely the stand taken by our own organization. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER FOXLEY-NORRIS, Chairman, FRET, 3 Bowdway, SW8.

From the Vice Principal of the Central School of Art and Design Sir, The gravamen of Mr Levin's article of today's date (December 11) is rebuttable quite simply by the very same principles as apply to the lurid displays of soft porn which are to be found in our local sweet shops. So Mr Levin wishes to be known as a champion of the cause of the individual's liberty to do as he pleases, more particularly that smokers should be free to smoke in public places if they so wish. But, in equity, he should surely also take into account the corollary of this, namely the freedom of non-smokers not to have to do, to them that which they do not wish to have done to them, i.e. the freedom not to be "smoked at". In such matters, the rights and liberties of both sections of the community must be safeguarded. Yours faithfully, PAUL BIRD, Vice Principal, Central School of Art and Design, Southampton Row, WC1.

From Mr Eugene A. Leesh Sir, Regarding Mr Levin's thoughtful article on cigarette smoking (December 11) perhaps the Government health warning should be reworded to state, simply and truthfully, contains permitted carcinogens. Yours sincerely, E. A. LEESE, 14 Salisbury Court, Salisbury Avenue, N3, December 11.

Answering Vatican charges From Dr Harry V. Stopes-Roe Sir, In my search for a Humanist to come to the defence of the Congregation for Doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, even if to a limited degree only. But perhaps, being an outsider, I see the same more clearly. The processes of critical enquiry are necessarily different where Divine revelation is available. This is particularly true where revelation is not merely a thing of the past, but God speaks through responsible for true religion. One must consider human responsibility in this context. Human understanding without Grace is false. Grace is not a shield for theological thought, but its most pure power. Further, religious leaders bear a critical responsibility for right doctrine where the eternal souls of people can depend, in part, on the beliefs they hold. The Congregation believes itself to stand in this exposed position, with the power, the support, and the responsibility I have indicated. It must act so as not to cause unnecessary disruption; therefore

it is right to make its preliminary enquiries slowly and carefully, and subject to confidentiality. But it must allow that the unavoidable intrusion of its human fallibility could lead it astray; therefore it must check and re-check, including the careful examination of the issues in discussion with interested parties. If God exists, and if he is involved in the world as Roman Catholics think he is, then the situation of the Christian theologians who expressed indignation in your columns on December 1 is more than merely "preposterous", as Professor Geach put it (December 6). If, on the other hand, these theologians believe that the Church is wrong on the fundamental matters which I have indicated, they should object to the theology of the Congregation, not its indiscretion or its inhumanity. The one follows from the other. Yours faithfully, HARRY V. STOPES-ROE, Chairman, British Humanist Association, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8, December 6.

Mild or bitter

From Mrs W. Marlowe Sir, Today, December 9 I noticed that snowdrops are coming up in our wood. Does this herald the longest ever winter or the earliest ever spring? Yours sincerely, ANNA MARLOWE, Claville House, Claville, Andover, Hampshire.

Learning lessons of the thirties

From Professor Thomas Wilson Sir, The year 1979 marks the fiftieth anniversary of two disasters. In the United States, the recession that started in 1929 was allowed to develop into a slump that engulfed the capitalist world. In the USSR, in December, 1929, Stalin launched his campaign to eliminate peasant proprietorship and establish collective farms. It was in 1933, when the slump was at its worst, that the USSR experienced a devastating famine as the direct consequence of Communist policy. Although the two events were unconnected, the coincidences in time were remarkable. In the capitalist world the slump convinced many people of the need to reform the system by avoiding in the future the mismanagement of the monetary and fiscal systems which had been the basic cause of the disaster. There were others who drew a different conclusion: capitalism must be overthrown and it was therefore right to pledge absolute loyalty to the one country where the revolution had already taken place. They were presumably quite unaware of what was happening at the same time in Russia. The record of the famine has, of course, been concealed as much as possible by the Russian censorship, but the general course of events has long been known, though not widely known, in the West. Thus Professor Nove has observed that, according to the census statistics, "well over 10 million people had disappeared" between 1929 and 1933. "An Economic History of the USSR, p. 180. Although it would be wrong to infer that 10 million died of starvation, the number must have been very large indeed. In this must be added the number who were executed. A great many peasants were also deported and subjected to cruel hardship. There can be little doubt that, although the slump in the capitalist world was a tragedy, it was less terrible than the contemporary tragedy in Russia. Everyone knows about the capitalist slump but it seems probable that, even today, few people in the West are aware that there was a famine in Russia. We have been reminded recently by the media about the slump; it is surely time that the importance of the famine be informed us about the famine. It is all the more important that this should be done because agriculture—reorganized at this terrible cost in human suffering—has continued to be so weak a sector in the Soviet economy that it has been a major factor in North America have been desperately needed in recent years in order to provide food for the Communist countries. The economies of the West are, once more in difficulty and it is crucially important to ensure that our defence is now sufficiently strong to prevent the current recession from leading down once more into deep depression. But Russia is also encountering serious difficulties and these are not confined to agriculture. This fact needs to be known in the West so that superficial ideological conclusions are not to be drawn once again. Yours faithfully, THOMAS WILSON, Department of Political Economy, Adam Smith Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, December 10.

Gladstone's return From Sir David Scott Sir, I am not much impressed by the evidence produced by Dr Matthew in his letter to *The Times* of December 7 about the relations between the Fifth Duke of Buccleuch and his Midlothian tenants, of whom, according to the present Duke of Buccleuch (letter to *The Times* of November 29) probably no more than 25 were entitled to vote—surely a very material point in this controversy. Nothing indeed could indicate more clearly that the Duke was a benevolent landlord than the fact that his tenants felt that they could safely light bonfires and exult openly at the defeat of his son. As regards his son, he was my uncle and I knew him intimately for many years. I can think of few people kinder, even in the heat of an 1880 election campaign, to have countenanced bullying or threats to tenants who did not vote for him. Such an attitude would have been entirely alien to his whole outlook and temperament. People associated with him in the Midlothian election campaign, to whom I often spoke on the subject, attributed his defeat to his indulgence; and it would not surprise me if that same indulgence, and nothing more sinister (manifestly, he was not a man to be trifled with), crushed at least one. But another crushed her blows and fell upon the lady seated next to me, causing her considerable distress. I managed to drive it to the floor, whereupon it retreated under her seat. The air passenger suffers expense, frequent delays and inconvenience. Must he also suffer cockroaches? Yours faithfully, J. RICHARDS, 64 Colverstone Crescent, E8.

Pests in flight From Mr J. Richards Sir, I recently returned from Canada on a British Airways 747 jet which appeared to be infested with cockroaches. Showing characteristic resource, an air hostess removed her shoe and killed them with it, crushing at least one. But another crushed her blows and fell upon the lady seated next to me, causing her considerable distress. I managed to drive it to the floor, whereupon it retreated under her seat. The air passenger suffers expense, frequent delays and inconvenience. Must he also suffer cockroaches? Yours faithfully, J. RICHARDS, 64 Colverstone Crescent, E8.

Cancelled meeting I should like to correct the edition, which appears to have been from misunderstanding, that cancelling of the meeting at Sir Keith Joseph was to speak his polytechnic last Thursday (December 6) was anything to do with Sir Keith himself or the views he might have been putting forward. The senior officer of the polytechnic who cancelled the meeting was the officer ultimately responsible for conforming with the Health and Safety at Work Act and the decision because of the safety of holding a meeting in the building. A large number of the building were believed to have been damaged in preparation for occupation by students on an 'early' separate issue, that of over students' fees. The issue of the safety of the building was not involved. Sir Keith Joseph has been a well-known visitor to the City of London.

Prayer Book language From the General Secretary of the Church Union Sir Canon George Adkin (letter, December 6) cannot have it both ways. He cannot on the one hand claim that Catholics within the Church of England only "could" and never actually "would" use the new rite, and then on the other hand be upset when the Church Union, the leading Catholic body within the Church of England, actually uses the rite (in a non-parochial service held in an unconsecrated building), within 24 hours of General Synod having authorized it. The rite used that day was entirely within the bounds of the new service using the liberty given by the rubrics and notes contained within it, and minor variations allowable under Canon B5(1). Yours faithfully, PETER GELDARD, General Secretary, The Church Union, 7 Tufton Street, SW1, December 6.

Assisted places scheme From Lady Wale-Cohen Sir, It is important that we should make clear that the assumption which Dr Michael Hooper made in his letter in today's issue (December 10) is based on a misunderstanding. The fees of every independent school are bound to include a component for capital expenditure. We are assured by the Department of Education and Science that there is every intention that the approved fees of the assisted places schools shall include a similar component. May I also say how much we in the Council support Sir Desmond Leary's letter (December 10). The independent schools have never wished that the opportunities they have to offer should be confined to the children of well-to-do parents. They welcome the chance which the assisted places scheme provides of opening their doors more widely. Yours faithfully, JOYCE WALEY-COHEN, Chairman of the Independent Schools Joint Council, 11 Little St James's Street, SW1, December 7.

Trees for kingfishers From the Chairman of the Southern Water Authority Sir, Your correspondent, Alison Ross, in your issue (November 24) made the statement that "modern river management demands treeless banks", and asked that water authorities should provide alternative accommodation for kingfishers in the form of short posts on river banks. May I correct this statement with regard to river management and inform you that this authority is always ready to consider suggestions in the interests of nature conservation. The authority has recently approved a policy for the conservation of mature deciduous trees which has been discussed with nature conservation bodies, the Nature Conservancy Council, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and County Naturalists' Trusts, with whom we have arrangements for liaison and regular discussion on implementation and other matters of mutual concern. Generally, trees will be retained wherever possible so that, except on the widest rivers, the

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Lead in petrol: bad for cars, but far worse for children's health



Government will have to decide early whether to order oil companies to move, or dramatically reduce, the lead in petrol, as an urgent health risk.

subject is emotive. Parents fear their children are being poisoned by a child's system, quantities rather than accepted "safe" limits, damage the brain. And just as that, the belief that petrol-lead plays a minor part in overall lead pollution seriously challenges by researchers, led, with evidence that petrol-lead significantly to overall pollution, digners are putting pressure on the Government to follow the example of the United States, West Germany and Japan, remove, or substantially reduce, the amount of lead.

Government is well aware of the health argument against lead. Removal of lead from petrol would save £100 million a year, and would save national fuel consumption because lead petrol is burnt more quickly.

A year ago a Department of Transport party, with Government, oil, and motor trade members, set up a working party to study ways of reducing lead in petrol. Costs of varying options were between £70m and £200m.

In report, though, is as interesting as it is on what it says. It seems about the worst savings that could be made by reducing or removing lead content of petrol.

mining, transporting, smelting and use of lead are expensive and energy procedures. So is the manufacture of the organo-lead anti-knock compound.

impression is sometimes conveyed that lead is good for engines. But the

reverse is true. As research has shown, leaded fuel robs computers. The Civil Aviation Authority's notice No. 72 warns of the damaging effects of leaded petrol. Cars go better, last longer and run more cheaply on unleaded fuel. Exhaust pipes do not have to be renewed as often and maintenance costs are lower.

During the 1970s, while other governments have taken firm action, British governments have been waffling and apparently complacent. The official line has been that there is no proof that petrol-lead causes brain damage or is in any way a health hazard. At the same time the Government has taken some precautions.

In 1972, on medical advice, it asked the oil companies to reduce the amount of lead in petrol so that, over the years, lead emissions from exhausts would not exceed the 1971 level.

It is a policy of containment. In 1971 the lead content of British petrol was 0.84 grams per litre. From 1981 the aim is to get it down to 0.40. But during the next two or three years the amount of lead being put into the atmosphere from exhausts is expected to exceed the 1971 level. In fact, lead emissions are increasing. (The Gasoline lead level, incidentally, is 0.15 grams per litre.)

Interest now is focused on the working party set up by the Department of Health and Social Security and chaired by Professor P. J. Lawrence, architect of London's leaded petrol ban. The working party is examining the effects of lead in all its guises, and not just petrol-lead. So it is considering the effects of lead in paint, in food, in water pipes.

That lead is a dangerous nerve poison is not disputed. But what has emerged in recent research is that lead, even in

day quantities, may interfere in subtle ways with the development of the central nervous system. Thus babies and young children are especially vulnerable.

A growing body of research shows a link between levels of lead in the body and impaired mental performance. Lead-affected children are unable, hyperactive, unable to concentrate; they are educationally disabled. Recent research in England on a sample of "difficult" school children has pointed a finger of suspicion at lead.

Researchers rightly urge caution. They do not want laymen to jump to conclusions. They are not saying that high lead levels equal maladjustment, difficult children, or backwardness, as a matter of course. There are many variables and many factors that have to be considered, such as living conditions, housing, nutrition.

The DHSS working party will be making its report in January, and it is expected that the reports will be published. Its assessment will no doubt be cautious.

Science cannot prove that petrol-lead causes brain damage in children. Research cannot establish cause and effect any more than it could establish cause and effect between, say, smoking and cancer. What counts is consistent proof of a link, the weight of the evidence.

Time and again lead is appearing in the equations when educational and emotional impairment in children are investigated. If it is a matter of cost, well, it is very expensive to care for disturbed, difficult and damaged children.

The case against petrol-lead may be not proven, but it is the very strong element of doubt that may persuade the government to act, and to take the course of safety that other countries took years ago.

Trevor Fishlock

The great catastrophe

Michael Ratcliffe

by Kurt Vonnegut
(Cape, £5.50)

The hero of Kurt Vonnegut's novel is Walter Starbuck, President Nixon's (unconsulted) adviser on Youth Affairs and most obscure of Watergate conspirators. ("It was like being in a wonderful musical comedy where the critics mentioned everybody but me.") A Harvard man, Walter emerges from jail without wife, job or prospects of any kind, and makes for New York City and the hotel where, at the height of the Great Depression, he had been both happy and homeless in 1931.

Waking early the next day, as if still in prison, he takes his breakfast in a coffee shop down the block:

"... everywhere I looked I saw children every day, and I was receiving with love. To the mothers everywhere was 'honey-bunch' or 'dear'. It was like an emergency ward after a great catastrophe. The catastrophe in this case, of course, was that the sun had come up again."

Vonnegut is not entirely joking. Indeed, in much of *Jailbird* he is not joking at all. Ever since *Slaughterhouse-Five* there has been a fight between desolation, anarchy and despair to take control of his novels and until now (*Breakfast of Champions*).

Slapstick anarchy and despair have just about shared the field—anarchy as the vitalising element in history's comic atmosphere, and despair as a fine, stinging pitch by aphoristic perceptions and brilliant jokes. *Jailbird* is different: desolation is king. I don't think he has ever written such a desolate book before. Nor, more seriously, such an unfunny one: to be sure, a few of the jokes still kick hard, but for those few there are far too many lying on the ground with barely a twitch.

Social history lies uneasily with fantasy. *Slapstick* was dedicated to the angelic shades of Laurel and Hardy; *Jailbird*'s satire is Sacco and Vanzetti, not the same kind of quixotic act at all, but the murdered victims of "one of the most spectacular, acrimonious, and grotesque miscarriages of justice in American history". *Jailbird* invokes the example of their meekness at several points as it contemplates a world in which the march of science and humanism—all the personal assertions of "boly common sense"—are everywhere on the run. Selfish consumerism and Harvard duplicity have finished the work that the House Committee on Un-American Activities began. Starbuck had testified keenly.

Tenderness remains, and is

the novel's most positive demonstration. Not that this alleviates the desolation much, since Walter Starbuck's four loves—his mother, his sister, Sarah Cleaves and Mary Kathleen O'Looney—are all either dead or lost to him, but it does help to temper the bitterness near to self-pity which threatens at times to blow the novel apart. Tenderest of all is Ruth, the Jewish wife and survivor of Auschwitz whose talents were not always met with worldly success: her wedding photographs were irredeemably lugubrious; her cocktail pianism too fine.

Mary Kathleen, the Marxist girl friend of his Harvard youth, is the most effective of Walter's women because she turns into two characters whose actions dominate the plot, such as it is, in the second half of the book. She is a carrier-by lady who lives among bowls of rat poison in the bowels of Grand Central Station, and she is the mysterious controlling shareholder of RAMJAC, America's largest conglomerate, bearing the same surname as the proprietor of the Washington Post.

The widow Graham plans to demolish the wealth of the capitalist system from within. First, she falls on Starbuck shortly after his Manhattan breakfast, making him, and the handful of people most nice to him in the

first 24 hours of his release, into Vice Presidents of the Corporation; second, she redistributes RAMJAC's fortune among the American people who most truly deserve it. Even this goes wrong, however: so much money is spent on the administration of RAMJAC's bounty that there is very little left to share out; only the bureaucrats flourish.

Her duty done—and another problem with this novel is that we are being asked to believe that, despite all appearances to the contrary, the meek shall inherit the earth—Kathleen is struck by a taxi, crawls quietly home to die, like Mimi, in her former lover's arms.

There was meanwhile an occasional grumbling in the living room around the house, the old dying upstairs, which was the railroad system of the United States. Half-broken locomotives were dragging completely broken passenger cars in and out of the station.

Jailbird produces just enough uncomfortable perceptions like this—another, in the foreword, that a crowd believing itself to be silent is not the same as a crowd that really is—for us to hope that the surrealist poet in Vonnegut is merely dormant; but in the main this is a pale, dispiriting and unconvincing performance by one of the most original and disturbing fabulists of our time.

Turbulent priest

Ahead of His Age
by John Barnes
(Collins, £12.95)

In his foreword Sir John Barnes writes: "Some will say that a son should not write about his father. They may be right. It is not easy to strike a balance between affection and objectivity." Here is the real problem of this book. The author is a former ambassador, and so no doubt has struggled very hard to strike this balance, and for most of the work has undoubtedly succeeded. But inevitably, what John Barnes has admirably documented and temperately expressed, will for the reader who lived through those years of intense religious controversy be regarded as an apology.

He is now, for his part, a vague, even unknown figure of those troubled times, especially as the Established Church itself has become no less vague and unknown, a decline which he has tried to prevent. He was born in Birmingham, and became a scholar of Trinity, Cambridge, in 1952—an exceptionally brilliant mathematician who contributed much distinguished work in that field. After an outstanding academic career as an ordained Fellow of Trinity, he became well known as an authoritative lecturer and preacher. However, at the beginning of the 1960s, his world was his curious self-contradictory character emerged as a pacifist who thought the war had to be fought, though all the nations involved were culpable, and as a socialist who justified capitalism.

Trinity were glad to see the back of him in 1915, when he became Master of the Temple, and Barnes was then clearly rather than academic future. He was preferred to a canonry at the Abbey in 1919, and in 1924 became the first bishop to be nominated to an Anglican see by a Labour House Minister, Ramsey MacDonald. He was, of course, as Bishop.

The character of Bishop Barnes as a puritan who was not a Puritan, and as a mathe-

matical scientist rather than an Anglican prelate-theologian, made for great trouble. His obsessive concern was to make the C. of E. a rational institution. To do that, he was determined to regularize the extreme Anglo-Catholic party, who were, as he saw it, practising the very thing which had caused the Reformation, i.e. the heresy that the consecrated elements were really and substantially changed and could be worshipped and adored.

It will be astonishing reading to the modern who has no recollection what the fierce controversy was about. He may decide that E. W. Barnes was a hero and a martyr ahead of his age. He may think that the C. of E. itself was and is as mad as a hatter. In fact, in most things, Barnes himself was a fanatically intellectual moralist. In my view, the Christian Gospel is more in danger from the religion of William Blake than that of William Barnes. But he wrote one book, which I read a year after going up to Oxford in 1927, entitled *Should Such a Faith Offend?*, a collection of essays and sermons which I still treasure.

I suspect that his son suffered from a classical education, and the compendious story of his father is, therefore, inevitably qualified with Latin phrases. There is one line from Horace's *Odes* I missed: *instans et tenacem propositum virum*. I have no doubt that E. W. Barnes was a resolute seeker after righteousness, and held on like a bulldog to what he believed was the purpose he was called to serve; a memorable bishop, however much he was loved or feared, and however many rebellious Anglo-Catholic parsons went trembling from his presence: to say nothing of archbishops.

But this tale of his life is a strange recollection of "old-fashioned" stuff, and a "battering long ago". His passion for order and rationalization has long since proved ineffective in preventing the slow descent of the Established Church into its present galling, amateurish, and unlovely disorder.

Joseph McCulloch

His own epitaph

Mountbatten
Eighty Years in Pictures
(Macmillan, £8.95)

This album of pictures was to be a celebration. Instead, it has a new role and one it fulfils admirably—to be a memorial to the man and his career. It is impossible to approach the book without recalling his murder at Mullaghmore, made more tragic because the victims belonged to such a united family. Lord and Lady Brabourne were setting out for the day with two sons, his mother and her father, after 33 years of marriage. Lord Brabourne paused to take a photograph. Yet the book proves that this was no isolated family outing. There is one particularly poignant picture taken at Broadlands two years ago, in which the victims, including Doreen Lady Brabourne, are gathered together for Christmas. The book also reminds us that assassination was part of Mountbatten's world. Two sons, two uncles and five first cousins were murdered before he was 19.

In a characteristic Mountbatten foreword (19 "I am nine 'my', a 'myself', a 'mine' and a 'me' in 27 lines), the late Admiral tells us that he refused to authorize a biography in his lifetime, to write any memoirs, and he gave us a twelve-episode television series and a book based on it. The text of this album is anonymous, but clearly Mountbatten had the last word on it, so in a sense he wrote his own epitaph: "Brilliance, decisiveness, hard work and humanity add up to a formidable picture."

In the habit of all great men he shows us glimpses of irresponsibility in youth before adjusting his dignified and taking himself more seriously. Thus we learn that he knocked Queen Victoria's spectacles from her nose at his christening, accidentally crushed his pet canary and all but choked his lamb, Millie, in an exercise of discipline. He went on to become a knight at 22, a Vice-Admiral two years younger than Nelson, the last Viceroy of India, a keen aviator, polo player, genealogist, the author of a best seller, an inspired Fleet Wireless Operator, and a determined fundraiser for the United World College project. He was the source of the idea for Agatha Christie's plot *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, and last summer he successfully entered the daily home bureau and nest. He had a lifelong knack

for being in the right place at the right time. We see him in the lap of a surprisingly young-looking Queen Victoria, and standing between the Queen and Prince Philip on the Royal Wedding in 1947, and the Grand Duchesses of Russia in 1909 and we learn that in 1967 he had discussions with Koyun in Moscow. He travelled the high seas with the Duke of Hanoi in the 1930s, and the Duke of Windsor, King George VI and Prince Charles took him during an aeroplane flight in the 1970s. However I am yet to be convinced that "King Edward VIII summoned his brother and Mountbatten to spend his last afternoon at Fort Belvedere with him." (He is not mentioned in the accounts of the Duke of Windsor, King George VI or Walter Monckton.)

Lord Mountbatten takes the opportunity in this album to tell the world straight, for example, on Diagea. This raid has been described by people who do not understand what it achieved as a catastrophe. The losses were disturbing, but despite the disaster, lessons that had to be learned.

and after his television film "he was inundated with fan letters proving that his old friend Charlie Chaplin was wrong when he had captioned the photograph in his biography 'Breaking the news to Lord Mountbatten that he is no actor!' We could have had more of Lady Mountbatten's career, and along with all the stars, crosses and medals Lord Mountbatten might have revealed how he acquired the "cross on forehead" mentioned in his Naval identity card. His publishers have saved him ill in the unnecessary "cropping" of some of the pictures, and they would have done well to submit the family trees to his professional scrutiny. (There are several mistakes. King Juan Carlos is still described as Infante and Prince of Spain after four years on the throne.) But this is a handsome book and a fine tribute to an extraordinary life.

Hugo Vickers

Crisp and hot and pleasing



Shona Crawford
Poole

The trouble with cocktail parties is that they are too useful. Having people round for a party is a social obligation throughout the year. Invitations may be engraved, or over the hedge; numbers, six to several; scores; dress, cocktail hats or gardening jumpers; drink, dry martinis, champagne, plonk or punch. It is party time. Brave smiles and something to nibble must be offered.

Ask anyone what kind of food they prefer not to be offered at cocktail parties and the list will include disco-coloured onions steeped in butyric acid, less than crisp crisps and crisps flavoured with anything more than straight salt, plain peanuts, chunks of mousser and pineapple impaled on a grapefruit, artichoke celery filled with fishy paste, cream cheese, chopped chipolatas sizzling, but in their own fat, soggy crackers topped with this and that, and fancy open sandwiches glazed with epic to withstand the central heating.

Cost is plainly no guide to the acceptability of cocktail canapés. Expensive caterers produce silvered trays of gourmet morsels which are undoubtedly mouthwatering when assembled at ten in the morning, and are barely flabby by seven at night.

Harassed hostesses who do for themselves face exactly the same problem, the dilemma of advance preparation versus last minute panic with blobs of crème de foie gras on the front of a new frock.

Experienced survivors of the cocktail party, chicken, roast, smoked salmon sandwiches, daintily cut from brown bread and well

seasoned with black pepper and lemon juice are universally acceptable, just so long as they are fresh and not curdling. The wedges, chicken livers wrapped in bacon and hot from the oven go down well, as do plumped prawns (seasoned of course) given the same treatment. Freshly roasted almonds with plenty of salt are always popular. So are the bought varieties, cashews, hazels and more exotic ones. Olives are a matter of taste. And crisps, plain and fresh are seldom ignored.

For something a little different and not too demanding of time or money, the classic reference books provide a wealth of ideas which plastic food wrap and a good practical sense can make work. The only real rules are that what should be hot is hot, what should be crisp is crisp, and that with standing room only, nothing should be bigger than hise-sized.

Mixing the butter for, say, prawn canapés, with a few of the prawns, and seasoning it well, is an extra taste trick which works well with many different ingredients. Lilliputian pizzas made with fishy paste on a well seasoned tomato sauce can be made in advance, and frozen before or after baking, as long as they are served hot. More exotic are deep fried pillows of camembert.

Croquettes of camembert
Makes about 30:
55g (2oz) cornflour
120ml (4 fl oz) milk
255g (9oz) camembert cheese, crust removed and diced
55g (2oz) butter
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cayenne
A pinch of nutmeg
2 eggs
Crumbs to coat
Oil for deep-frying

Put the cornflour in a small, heavy pan and stir in the milk. Add the diced cheese, the butter cut in small pieces, and the seasonings.

Heat the mixture slowly, stirring constantly, and cook until it is really thick and comes away from the sides of

the pan. (There is a stage where the mixture looks like scrambled egg. Fear not and keep stirring.) Spread the mixture on a buttered tray and leave it to cool.

Cut the now solid cheese into 1.25 cm (1/2 inch) cubes and dip them first in beaten egg and then in breadcrumbs. Repeat the egg and breadcrumb procedure to give each cube two coats.

Chill the prepared croquettes for at least half an hour before deep frying, or freeze them for deep frying at the last moment. There is no need to thaw frozen croquettes before frying.

Deep fry the croquettes for three to five minutes at 190°C (375°F). At this temperature a one-inch cube of day-old bread will brown in about 60 seconds. Repeat the test. The mixture will melt inside its coat of golden crumbs. If the oil is not hot enough the cheese will leak out.

Beignets soufflé, deep fried puffs of choux pastry flavoured with chocolate are relatively simple, pretty unexciting and absolutely delicious. They can be frozen after frying and reheated, without thawing, for five minutes in a hot oven (230°C/450°F, gas mark 8).

Beignets soufflé
Makes about 30:
150 ml (1/2 pint) water
45 g (1 1/2 oz) butter
70 g (2 1/2 oz) plain flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne
2 whole eggs and 1 yolk
100 g (3 1/2 oz) Gruyère cheese, cut in tiny dice
Oil for frying

Put the water in a small, heavy pan with the butter and bring to the boil. Away from the heat, add the sifted flour and seasonings all at once, and mix well. Return to the heat and stir until the paste leaves the sides of the pan.

Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly before beating in the eggs one at a time. Stir in the diced cheese.

Using two teaspoons, mould half teaspoonful of the paste into balls and deep fry at 190°C (375°F) for six to eight minutes, turning them over at about half time. At this temperature a one inch cube of day old bread will brown in 60 seconds and the paste will swell, more than doubling its size, into golden puffs. Drain and serve very hot.

Fuss and feathers

Insubstantial Pageant
Commentary and Confusion at
Queen Victoria's Court
By Jeffrey L. Lunt
(Hamish Hamilton, £12.50)

Mr Lunt's exposé of Victorian muddle started life as a doctoral dissertation on the Gold Jubilee of 1887. "It was then," he declares, "that the broad outlines of royal ceremonial organization were laid down after decades of persistent bungling and confusion by the Queen's coronation."

And even then, among other contretemps, a bishop's slip led the Queen to withdraw prematurely, only to be brought back to finish the service. Her wedding, too, was not rehearsed, and Prince Albert was often at a loss what to do. And even that Prince's efficiency failed to prevent the incident of the Chinese who joined the ambassadors' procession when the Great Exhibition was opened. Further awkwardness occurred at the Duke of Wellington's funeral, the Prince of Wales's wedding, when a party of the guests were stranded at Windsor station on their way home—Kate Stanley recalls an even worse fiasco in connection with a review at Spithead—and at the thanksgiving service for the Prince's recovery in 1872. But it is the Golden Jubilee that forms the bulk of Mr Lunt's study.

The royal biographies give no hint of all that went wrong. It was a colossal disaster, the Queen insisted on the Abbey, whereas St Paul's would have been the better choice. Then there was the question of cost. The Queen was inclined to be frugal, and the Government was not minded to lay out money on a celebration without penury. The foreign "royal nob" must be there in force, among them

the Queen of Hawaii, whose insistence on her proper precedence did not please the European contingent. Like many others Lord Salisbury poked fun at her, in private: "The whole Court was never tired of lavishing honours on the Black Queen of Hawaii—who looks exactly like Lady Rosebery stained walnut." And then who was to be in the Abbey? The baronetcy as an order were turned down flat, but one ingenious lady established her claim to a tickler as representing old maids. A dubious "bishop" got one, and tickets were actually sold by the Blue-mantle of the day.

The public subscriptions to make the Jubilee also made trouble. It was hard to fix on suitable ends, and the way the collections were handled left much to be desired. The Prince of Wales himself comes in for criticism, being unfortunately connected with what was known as the "South Kensington Gang" who were after substantial perks. By the time of the Diamond Jubilee, however, most of the lessons had been learnt.

Jan Stephens

John Fowles THE TREE

Photographs by Frank Horvat

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THE TIMES

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SURVIVORS

Stock markets
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Gilt 64.37 up 0.28

sterling
30 up 35 points
x 69.5 up 0.4

Gold
x 65.1 up 0.3

Oil
an ounce down \$0.5

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UK industry prepares for £100m a year trade as Rhodesia bar is lifted

By John Huxley

Restrictions on trade with Southern Rhodesia were withdrawn yesterday in a series of government moves taking effect from midnight. They signalled the start of a period of hectic activity by British industry aimed at re-establishing itself in a market which trade officials believe could yield exports worth £100m in the next 12 months.

Removal of the sanctions against Rhodesia restores normal commercial relations with Southern Rhodesia. As for other countries, licences will still be required for the import and export of certain types of goods subject to general restrictions.

An additional requirement, reflecting the terms of the political solution being worked out for the country, is that export to Southern Rhodesia of aircraft, aircraft spares and equipment will be subject to licensing control.

Exchange controls relating to Rhodesia were removed by the Treasury by means of Statutory Instruments laid before Parliament last night. This means that the abolition of exchange controls, announced by the Chancellor in October, becomes effective worldwide.

At the same time, the Export Credits Guarantee Department, announced that insurance cover is now available for British exports to Southern Rhodesia. Cover will apply in the first instance to exports sold on credit terms not exceeding six months.

The ECGD is to keep under consideration the possibility of extending cover to other types of contracts in the light of developments in the market and the needs of British exporters, an official said.

Many British companies who have remained in Southern Rhodesia for the past 15 years are still waiting for an indication from the Southern

Rhodesian authorities that obstacles to the resumption of normal trading are to be removed. These companies have been unable to gather information or take dividends from subsidiaries in Southern Rhodesia.

A spokesman for Turner and Newall, best known for its asbestos interests, said last night that a team led by Mr Martin Bell, the finance director, was waiting "with bags packed" to re-establish contact with its Rhodesian subsidiary. But this would occur only when the authorities lifted restrictions on exchange of financial information.

Mr John McEwen, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday welcomed the opportunity of an early resumption of trade with Southern Rhodesia.

The CBI now expects to send a trade mission to Salisbury next month. It will be led by Mr Daniel Stewart, of Standard Chartered Bank.

In the same month, the London Chamber of Commerce is sending a mission to South Africa, and it is now hoped to include a visit to Southern Rhodesia.

British Airways hopes to resume flights to Salisbury within the next few days, it was said. The corporation was awaiting confirmation of its service by the Southern Rhodesian authorities.

The service will fly from Heathrow via Nairobi, BA has retained a licence for the route since before Southern Rhodesia's declaration of independence. An official said the twice-weekly service was a "prime source of revenue".

Meanwhile, British Caledonian is considering whether to appeal against the Civil Aviation Authority's decision last night not to grant the airline a licence for the twice-weekly service to Salisbury.

Department of Trade officials

said last night that hard information on trade prospects with Southern Rhodesia was lacking although it was hoped that some would be provided by a commercial counsellor, attached to the Foreign Office, who is now with Lord Soames.

In 1965, Britain was Southern Rhodesia's main trading partner, per cent of Southern Rhodesia's imports and exports £3.5m (22 per cent of Salisbury's exports). To achieve the same performance an eightfold increase on these figures would be required.

This is clearly out of the question, although trade officials believe Southern Rhodesia could resume its position as third largest African market after South Africa and Nigeria.

Growth in the Southern Rhodesian economy has been poor—zero this year, but perhaps 3 per cent next, but the longer term prospects are regarded as good.

Much will depend upon how much currency Salisbury has to spend on infrastructure, much of which needs replacing, and the success of British companies in wresting back markets.

A number of British companies and trading corporations have been preparing for the return of Rhodesia to legality. Dunlop and the Imperial Group were among those seeking to re-establish contact with companies there. ICI said yesterday it was looking at trade opportunities in Southern Rhodesia.

British Rail said that its consultants were looking at the possibilities of undertaking work in Southern Rhodesia.

The best export opportunities are seen in the area of equipment for transport, agriculture and the process industries. Before UDI the principal export from Southern Rhodesia to Britain was tobacco.

British Leyland International is considering sending a team to Salisbury to report on BL assembly operations.

Stock Exchange takes first step towards introducing a three-tier market system

By Alison Mitchell

The Stock Exchange Council has taken the first step towards introducing a three-tier market system. A new Unlisted Securities Market (USM) has been proposed which will provide a half way house between a private company and an official listing.

Trading under rule 163(2), whereby shares in unlisted companies currently change hands, will no longer be permitted to quote a two-way price or open a position in the shares.

An exposure draft on the USM, prepared by a committee headed by Mr Charles Elington, a partner in Akroyd & Smithers, stock jobbers, has been accepted in principle by the Council.

The draft will now be sent out to member firms and other

interested bodies for their opinions and comments and it is thought that if it is favourably received the new market could be in operation by early summer.

Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Council, said yesterday that the principal reason for setting up the market was to allow new capital to be raised in smaller amounts than would normally be practical or economic by way of an official listing.

The USM will be regulated by the Quotations Committee and the member companies will be charged a flat-rate annual fee of £1,000. Other requirements for entry include good trading results for the previous three years, a market placing of less than £1.5m and a minimum of 15 per cent of the equity to be traded publicly.

Although not wanting to become inflexible with its rules,

the council envisages a transition to official listing status once a company's capitalization reaches the £10m level.

The draft emphasises that existing listed companies will not be allowed to move backwards into this new market.

Of the near 300 companies currently trading under rule 163(2), only 37 were considered "active" enough to warrant inclusion in the new market.

MJH Nightingale, investment banker, makes a further 17 stocks in its over-the-counter market, and has another company due to be launched next Wednesday.

Mr Roger Hodgson said yesterday that he welcomed the new market and added that he did not expect to lose any of his stocks to it.

However, there is speculation that James Burroughs, which distills and markets "Beefeater" gin and "Borzo" vodka, may be the first to make

the move. Shares in the group are currently dealt both in the Nightingale market and under rule 163(2).

Mr J. Sanger, group finance director, admitted that he would be looking with interest at the USM but that Nightingale's suited the group's interest at present.

Mr John Robertson, senior partner at Wedd, Duracher, Mordaunt, stock jobbers, said that the new system would technically make jobbing in the stocks much easier as the deals would no longer require the official seal of approval from the Quotations Committee.

However, he pointed out that, under the new system, it would be impossible for shareholders to do a "bed and breakfast" deal under rule 163(2) as jobbers could no longer take positions in the shares.

Financial Editor, page 19

Ryton men accept £8 Chrysler output deal

By Clifford Webb

Chrysler UK (it becomes Talisman on January 1) made the first breakthrough in negotiations to achieve the substantial productivity improvements demanded by its French parent Peugeot Citroën, as a condition for providing urgently needed capital investment.

A mass meeting of 2,000 assembly line workers at its Ryton, Coventry, car plant yesterday voted overwhelmingly to accept the recommendations of a union/management working party.

Details were not available, but the recommendations are known to cover the withdrawal of some restrictive practices and more mobility of labour.

In return the Ryton workers will be able to increase wages by up to £8 a week.

Negotiations at the nearby Stoke engine plant are also in the final stages and management is optimistic about the outcome. Progress is much slower at Linwood, Renfrewshire, but is expected to speed up in the new year when 1,250 redundancies now being finalised are out of the way.

Mr George Turnbull, managing director of Chrysler UK, said that he is looking for a 25 per cent improvement, but has given a warning that if the loss-making subsidiary does not move into profits shortly, Peugeot could well pull the plug and we shall go down the sink.

Meanwhile the BL joint negotiating council met yesterday to continue negotiations on even more sweeping productivity improvements demanded in return for a five per cent wage increase plus an incentive bonus scheme.

The talks were adjourned last night and will resume tomorrow.

Peugeot accused: The French National Assembly was reduced to uproar yesterday when Pierre Juquin, the Communist member for Essonne, produced what he called a secret document showing that Peugeot-Citroën had compiled a dossier on the political views of all workers at its plant at Birtley. He accused Peugeot of "treating its employees like horses."

Iran campaigns for cuts in oil production throughout Opec

By Nicholas Hirst

Iran is to campaign for production cuts by all the Opec nations when the oil producers meet in Caracas, Venezuela, starting on Monday.

Several Opec countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Venezuela, have indicated that, like Iran, they intend to reduce oil output next year.

Prices are expected to rise sharply. Mr Rene Oriz, the Opec secretary general, is reported as saying that a 30 per cent increase is possible. This would mean an upper limit of \$23.50 to \$30.55 a barrel.

But prices are already higher than this on the spot market which Opec countries are using to fix their contracts for next year.

Oil companies in the United Kingdom have paid up to \$40 a barrel and prices as high as \$45 a barrel have been reported. These compare with the official price of only \$12.70 a gallon when petrol was 90p a gallon.

While moderate Opec leaders are trying to produce a formula to unify prices and reduce uncertainty, Japan continues to buy aggressively in the spot market, which action it increases its stocks is keeping prices high.

It has also led to a sharp deterioration in Japan's relations with the United States. Washington has expressed unwillingness to accept Japan's purchasing of large quantities of the 700,000 barrels of crude a day from Iran which has been cut from American imports by President Carter's embargo.

Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, is reported to have described the Japanese behaviour as "insensitive". The State Department is understood to be drafting a letter to Mr Saburo Okita, the Japanese Foreign Minister.

It is felt that the dispute could rekindle American disaffection over the sharp trade deficit which the United States suffers with Japan.

Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Japanese Prime Minister, told reporters yesterday that his government would try to seek American understanding of Japan's difficulties in relying on the Middle East for 80 per cent of its oil needs.

Mr Noboru Amano, of the Japanese international trade and industry ministry, has gone to Washington to put the Japanese case.

National ports body to be wound up

By Edward Townsend

The Government is to abolish the National Ports Council, the statutory body set up 15 years ago to oversee Britain's ports. Its work has been financed by a levy on the industry as times something more than £1m a year.

Responsibility for efficiency "must now be put firmly on the ports themselves", said Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport, in the Commons yesterday.

Mr Fowler said the council had brought considerable improvements over the years, but it would not be able to achieve the further improvements in the efficiency of the ports that the country needed to meet the Department of Transport's port users and the British Ports Association—the industry's trade association—are to take place to determine how the council's functions will be carried out in the future.

Mr Fowler added that he would introduce legislation winding up the council as soon as he was satisfied with the industry's arrangements for providing efficiency and productivity. It would include provision for the council staff.

The abolition of the NPC came as no surprise to the ports industry, which has been pressing for structural changes and a greater degree of control over industry-wide expenditure.

The council was established in 1964 under the Harbours Act. Its chairman is Sir John Birt, who was chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company for five years up to 1977. It has eight other members and a staff of about 65.

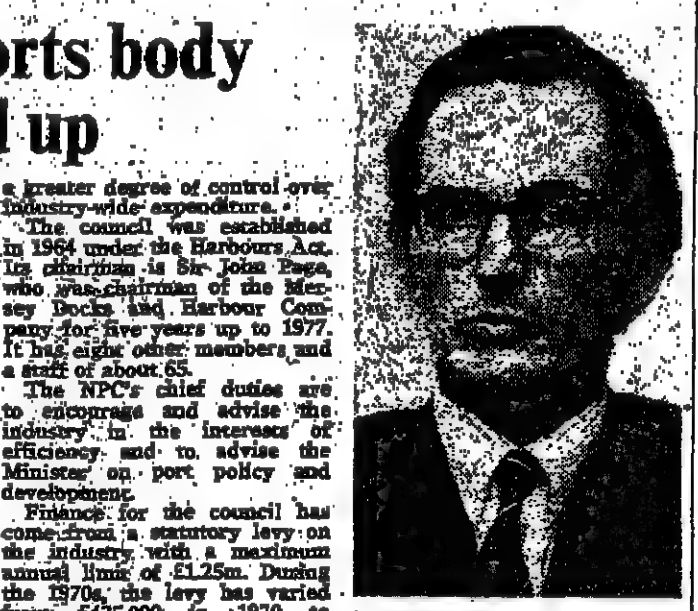
The NPC's chief duties are to co-ordinate and advise the industry in the interests of efficiency and to advise the Minister on port policy and development.

Finance for the council has come from a statutory levy on the industry, with a maximum annual limit of £1.25m. During the 1970s the levy has varied from £425,000 in 1970 to £1,050,000 in 1978. Last year the levy was £900,000.

The council's spending this year has been about £1m plus smaller sums raised by state grants for research and further charges to the industry for research.

The council's research has included work on instrumentation on dredgers, ship behaviour in shallow and confined channels, and container location systems for cradles.

Mr Fowler's statement was welcomed last night by Mr Eric Babington, director of the British Ports Association. Plans were already being made to satisfy the Minister's requirements and the BPA could carry



Mr Babington: calling the time for the ports.

out certain central functions such as the promotion of port research and training and the production of statistics.

The industry had changed, particularly in technical areas, out of recognition in the last 10 years, he said, and the time had come for a change in structure at national level.

"Now ports will control the discharge of their functions and control the money. They will no longer be able to complain that the people who pay the piper are not allowed to call the tune."

New guidelines for Scottish agency

By Donald Macintyre

Executive said yesterday there were three changes of emphasis introduced by the new guidelines.

The first was the investment subsidiary for which the agency had long been practical advantages.

Secondly, in private sector participation the agency should not invest in any enterprise for which private sector money was available, and that the agency's share in a company should not be greater than 50 per cent of its funding without approval of the Government.

The agency would have a duty to include a buy-back clause in all relevant investment agreements, and when agency money had done its job, it should be withdrawn and reallocated to other developments.

Two other changes introduced by the guidelines were that the agency could provide guarantees of up to £150,000 without giving notice to the Secretary of State for Scotland and that the limit of investments without approval of the Secretary of State was reduced from £2m to £1m.

Ministers are claiming a substantial diplomatic victory after the vetoing of an EEC resolution which would have meant a clear statement of intent by member governments to reduce working time.

In a written reply yesterday to the House of Commons, Mr James Lester, Under-Secretary of State in the Department of Employment, said that a resolution finally agreed by the council of labour and social affairs ministers "took account of differing views among ministers about the scope there was for

No work-sharing without rise in output, UK insists

By Donald Macintyre

A community approach to work-sharing measures "must be based on a proposal for work-sharing would, under the terms of the resolution, be a matter for unions and management to consider in the course of collective bargaining procedures."

In a written reply yesterday to the House of Commons, Mr James Lester, Under-Secretary of State in the Department of Employment, said that a resolution finally agreed by the council of labour and social affairs ministers "took account of differing views among ministers about the scope there was for

work-sharing measures".

Mr Lester said that proposals for work-sharing would, under the terms of the resolution, be a matter for unions and management to consider in the course of collective bargaining procedures.

Lord Gowrie, Minister of State in the same department, who represented Britain at the meeting, succeeded in pressing for a statement which would not commit governments to reductions in hours or work-sharing without a corresponding increase in output.

Greek shipowners to remit extra £500m

From Mario Modiano

Athens, Dec 12

Greek shipowners have volunteered to help Greece defray the higher cost of its oil imports for 1980 by increasing their remittances home next year by £500 million.

Mr Anthony Chandris, president of the Greek shipowners' union, left for London today after consultations with his government to appeal to the London-based Greek owners to support the campaign.

Greek revenue from shipping rose to £750m in 1979, the largest single source after exports. The plan is to increase shipping earnings to £1,250m to help Greece cover the increased cost of the 9.5 million tons of crude oil it needs in 1980.

Mr Chandris said: "We are not selling patriotism, but we know that the country desperately needs foreign exchange." The shipowners propose that the Greek government should grant them credit incen-

tives to induce them to make all their repairs in Greek shipyards at an estimated revenue of £150m annually.

They could also channel all insurance premium payments for Greek-owned ships through the Greek branches of international insurance companies. Before this can be achieved, however, there will have to be negotiations with mainly British underwriters.

The Greek government is also willing to authorize Greek banks to pay preferential interest rates for foreign currency deposits by shipowners and is considering tax exemptions for foreign currency purchases of land and property by resident shipowners.

The Greek shipowners' pledge came at a time of increasing anxiety over the trends in the Greek balance of payments. The main problem is the stockpiling of imported commodities in view of an inflation rate in Greece of 25 per cent this year.

PRICE CHANGES

11	18p to 255p	Mallinson Penny 4p to 47p
12	19p to 260p	Petal 3p to 105p
13	13p to 436p	Redfern Nat 15p to 225p
14	17p to 238p	Blund Chart 15p to 465p
15	11p to 161p	Wood S.W. 4p to 45p

Harvey 41p to 43p	10p to 465p
NV 7p to 358p	Nat Carbon 3p to 124p
old 8c to 360c	Ratners 3p to 46p
abbots 5p to 35p	Shaw Carpets 1p to 26p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
S	buys	2.81	11.35	20.85
Ch	29.00	27.00	Portugal Esc	113.00
Ph	65.75	62.25	South Africa Rd	1.72
	2.59	2.52	Spain Ps	151.10
Kc	12.30	11.75	Sweden Kr	9.50
	8.59	8.10	Switzerland Fr	3.68
	9.25	8.85	USA \$	2.25
Dm	36.00	3.77	Yugoslavia Dnr	47.50
	11.28	10.68		
S	1945.00	1750.00		
	543.00	578.00		
1c	4.41	4.18		

Accountants win 10-year battle for mandatory professional qualifications Company secretaries—to the letter of the law

An amendment to the Companies Bill this week ensures that all company secretaries—unless they are being modest—will carry letters of professional qualification after their names.

The amendment marks a victory for professional accountancy bodies, which have been urging that all secretaries of public companies should be properly qualified.

The amendment, proposed by Mr Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby on Merseyside, was carried after two hours discussion. It states that a company secretary should have adequate knowledge and expertise of his duties, and shall also be a member of either the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, or a member of any of the Institutes of Chartered Accountants for Eng-



Mr Graham Page

land, Wales, Scotland or Ireland, or be a qualified barrister, solicitor or advocate.

Mr Barry Barker, secretary of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries—which has been fighting for such a clause for more than 10 years, said yesterday that he was delighted that the amendment covered all public companies.

He pointed out that in the 1977 Stock Exchange Year Book, more than half the 4,000 secretaries of listed companies declared no professional accountability qualifications.

"The clause should deter boards from retaining secretaries with whom they disagree, as they will not now be able to find anyone more amenable," Mr Barker also pointed out that the public will now be offered some guarantee of pro-

feSSIONAL and technical ability.

"Our disciplinary sanctions over individuals are even stronger than the law, as we can destroy careers instead of just imposing a fine," he said.

The accountancy profession should also see an improvement in career prospects for its

Established Spanish builder Costa del Sol (East) seeks important Estate Agency in England for exclusive representation.

Edificios ToTo S.L.
Torre del Mar (Malaga)
Spain.



W Germany extends £98m credit to China

West German banks have negotiated the first Deutsche Mark export credit to China in a deal likely to serve as a model for future projects.

The DM370m (about £98m) credit to the Bank of China will finance nearly 85 per cent of a DM440m mill contract to Mannesmann Demag AG for production of seamless steel tubes.

The credit, provided through AKA, a consortium of German banks, is understood to have a three-year period during which neither interest nor principal will be paid. Repayment then follows over four years.

This facility, which is likely to receive the maximum 95 per cent guarantee of the government-backed Hermes Credit Insurance, is the first tangible loan from German banks to China. Previous loan agreements between individual German banks and the Bank of China, denominated in dollars, have yet to be drawn down, according to reliable banking sources.

Australian surplus

Australia's balance of payments as measured by net official monetary movements showed a \$13m (about £6,700,000) surplus in November after a \$102m deficit in October. A trade surplus of \$434m was the second highest recorded.

Italy pessimistic

Signor Gaetano Stammad, Italy's foreign trade minister, has predicted the nation's economic growth in 1980 will be "substantially flat". This is a pessimistic switch. In its budget proposals last September the Italian Cabinet predicted growth would rise 2.5 per cent in 1980.

Swiss jobs rise

Swiss unemployment rose 8.1 per cent in November from October, but still represents only 0.3 per cent of the country's total labour force. It was 25.6 per cent below the year-earlier level, according to the Swiss government's statistics office. The November total was 8,434 unemployed.

Energy costs up

Consumer prices in countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development rose 1.1 per cent in October, the same rate as in September, bringing the rise over a year to 11 per cent. The OECD in Paris points out, however, that the annual rate of increase over six months fell slightly to 12.7 per cent from 12.9 per cent a month earlier. The price rise largely reflects higher energy costs.

Trade surplus expected

The central bureau of statistics in Stockholm said industry expects Sweden to post a \$75m (about £41,400,000) trade surplus in the first half of 1980, after a 2,400m krona deficit for the second half of 1979 and a 78m krona surplus for the first six months of 1979.

Chemical index higher

Index of Swiss chemical industry production in the third quarter rose to 225.3 (base 1965) an increase of 1.8 per cent from the second quarter and of 11.3 per cent from the same year ago level. The Chemical Industry Association said in Basle. In the first nine months output was 2.8 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Salaries claim

Wage claims submitted on behalf of members of the West German Salaries Employees' Union for next year should aim for increases of between 7.5 and 9 per cent, the union's deputy chairman Gerda Basse, said in Hamburg.

Canadian Budget introduces radical change in energy policy

Moving towards international oil price levels

Crude oil prices in Canada will more than double in the next four years under a plan presented to the House of Commons by Mr. John Crosbie, the Finance Minister.

The plan is to bring the Canadian price, now an exceptionally low \$Can13.75 a barrel up to a level just below the present international price by January 1, 1984. Prices charged by members of Opec generally range at present between \$Can20 and \$Can27, although spot purchases can cost \$Can46 or more per barrel.

Mr. Crosbie, presenting the Government's first budget since the Conservatives displaced the Liberals in office six months ago, called for increases of \$Can4 a barrel next year and \$Can4.50 in following years, to total \$Can17.50 by 1984.

In addition Canadian excise tax on petrol has been increased from the pre-

sented 7 cents a gallon to 25 cents, effective immediately, and the tax was extended to include all transportation fuels.

This measure by itself will boost the price of petrol in Toronto to around \$Can12.25 (almost 50p) a gallon. When the scheduled crude oil increases are implemented the price per gallon will rise to around \$Can27.00 (£1.06) by 1984.

Mr. Crosbie explained the increases were intended to reduce demand for oil, encourage exploration by oil companies to bring in new Canadian supplies, and encourage substitution of other energy sources.

"Our objective... is to move Canada rapidly away from dependence on oil imports and towards self-sufficiency by 1990", he said.

To stimulate substitution of natural gas for oil gas prices will continue to be pegged at 85 per cent of oil on present

production volumes, with the ratio being reduced to 65 per cent on additional volumes.

Canada has a plentiful supply of natural gas but has been running out of its once-bountiful reserves of crude oil.

Mr. Crosbie acknowledged that his pricing formula depended to a large extent on an agreement being reached with the producing provinces, especially Alberta, but did not say what the Federal Government would do if such an agreement was not reached. Intensive negotiations over a period of several months have so far failed.

Other elements of a tough budget included a 5 per cent surtax on corporate profits, a 10 per cent rise in taxes on tobacco products, and an increase in taxes on spirits, wine and beer.

John Best

in Ottawa

Minister seeks talks with Airfix

By David Felton

A government minister wants an urgent meeting with the management of Airfix Industries to ask them to explain the closure at 30 minutes' notice of the Meccano factory in Liverpool where 960 sacked workers are staging a sit-in.

Mr. David Mitchell, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Industry, met shop stewards and officials from the Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday in London and told them that if the circumstances of the closure were as the workers described "it would appear that the management had behaved like a caricature of an 18th century mill owner."

He said circumstances of the closure and the company's alleged non-compliance with the 90-day notice of redundancy requirement of the Employment Protection Act was being investigated at the Department of Employment.

The minister also agreed to ask the Department of Health and Social Security to expedite social security payments to the workers who were sacked 10 days ago.

Shop stewards and union officials were accompanied at yesterday's meeting by Mr. Eric Heffer, Mr. Eric Ogden and Mr. David Alton, the MPs for Liverpool. Mr. Ogden said after the meeting that since the closure there had been inquiries from prospective customers for orders worth £500,000.

Mr. Frank Bloor, chairman of the factory's joint shop stewards committee, said the sit-in would continue until the 90 days notice of redundancy was received.

The unions believed that the factory could be profitable. Mr. Alton, Liberal MP for Edge Hill said the minister had undertaken to look into the granting of government aid to Airfix.



Mr. Ashley Raeburn, Rolls-Royce vice chairman, left, and Dr. K. Imai, on behalf of Japanese companies, toast the signing of an airline engine design agreement yesterday in London. The deal is worth £250m.

US airline 'may drop use of Rolls engine'

By Arthur Reed

Eastern Airlines, the major United States operator, is studying actively the possibility of fitting American General Electric CF6-32 engines to its fleet of Boeing 737 aircraft instead of Rolls-Royce RB211-535s, according to a foreword in the 1979-80 *Jan's All The World's Aircraft* published today.

Mr. John W. Taylor, editor, says that the managing director of Rolls-Royce, Sir Frank Whittle, has told his staff that "Boeing will never let the poor performance of a supplier stand in the way of their success" and that the potential sale of RB211s for 2,000 engines starting in 1980 is in the balance.

At the time of writing the foreword the RB211-535 programme was eight weeks behind schedule.

Mr. Taylor writes: "Time is now running out for evidence of shrewd leadership at the top and common sense will survive on the shop floor of British aerospace industry. Without these once traditional virtues, all the skill and talent in the world are cross."

His warning comes at a time when Rolls-Royce is joining a new international joint venture design of a commercial aeroplane to be carried out by Rolls and three Japanese companies under an agreement signed in London yesterday.

The design is for an engine of about 19,000lb thrust to enter service in 1986. It is intended for airlines of up to 150 seats and is based on the RB432 project. The Japanese companies working with Rolls are Isikawajima Harima Heavy Industries, Kawasaki Heavy Industries and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

The editor of *Jan's All The World's Aircraft* is also critical in his foreword of present Government plans for the British aerospace industry. He says that the nationalised British Aerospace was showing signs of life by the beginning of 1979, including Britain's re-joining the European Airbus programme.

Jan's All The World's Aircraft, 1979-80, *Jan's Yearbook*, 3, Shepherdess Walk, London N1 3ES.

Key role for America in fending off money crisis

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Dec 12

The United States can play a big role in fending off a crisis of confidence in the world's monetary and financial system by maintaining its policy of stabilising the dollar exchange rate, according to Dr. Wilfried Guth, one of West Germany's leading bankers.

Dr. Guth, who is one of the trustees of the Deutsche Bank, told a press conference in Düsseldorf that the crisis in Iran had led to a precarious situation, but if common sense prevailed the damage to the world's economic system could be limited.

"The greatest triumph for Khomeini would be if we were to allow a collapse of the international financial system and the dollar", he said.

He argued that in continuing a strong dollar policy, President Carter would be aided by the improvement in the American balance of payments and West Germany's and Japan's movement into balance of payments deficit on current account.

Dr. Guth expressed similar cautious optimism on the future of the dollar. He said that it was the duty of the international banks to maintain confidence in established market structures.

He saw no reason for the legal entanglements surrounding the servicing of Iranian debt to develop into a crisis of the markets. Iran was a special case he said, although he conceded that it would lead to banks adopting a more cautious attitude towards lending to foreign countries, possibly leading to a weakening of margins in favour of the banks.

Not only does Dr. Guth share the responsibility for running Germany's largest commercial bank, but he is also a trusted adviser of Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women candidates for top jobs

From Mrs V. J. Baumer

Sir, Mr. Arkle (December 5)

states that he gets no women candidates for top management posts, but can himself see no reason for this.

As a woman who, at 22, is studying for professional accountancy examinations and has recently married, I would like to shed some light upon the black chasm in the mind of Mr. Arkle.

The women in Britain who do want a career have spent many years fighting conventions, and in Britain we all know how big a brick wall conventions and traditions can be, and now, due to their efforts, the wall is beginning to crumble.

Having won their right to "top jobs", the supply of suitably qualified women is not "suddenly" available. It will take time for the schoolgirls and female students of recent years to gain the experience and the traditional 40-year-old building executive, and I would suggest that, in 15 years' time, the number of women holding

executive positions will have increased, but never, Mr. Arkle, will you have as many women as men.

Personally I am quite prepared for the five years of study necessary to gain a professional qualification in order that I will always have the ability to earn a good living at an interesting job but, however career-minded a woman is, many like myself feel that an executive office is no substitute for motherhood.

Yours faithfully,

VICTORIA J. BAUMER

The Lion Arms,

Broadway,

Worcestershire,

December 5.

From Mrs Mergot Collingbourne

Beverly

Sir, It is primarily a problem of age: getting a business appointment after graduation, with good qualifications (and the bonus of youth) is for a female, not such an insurmountable problem.

In the 30s, however - when one has missed the quick promotions available to men in

their late 20s by having to

beast for 5-10 years toward next generation's source of power - it is extremely difficult to get the management equal to one's qualifications. And, if one should so fortunate as to land a thing demanding, the 40 age looms up before the age necessary for senior management has been gained, with few many more age years to get an interview, let alone an interview, let alone a chance to prove us the necessary potential for top job.

Yours sincerely,

M. COLLINGBOURN

Secretary Officer,

London: Chamber of

Commerce and Industry,

Sidcup,

Kent,

December 5.

Alcoholism and the cost of drink

From Prof R. E. Kendall

Sir, Mrs Rosemary White

is horrified by press reports that I stated at the World Health Assembly that governments must take legislative measures to reduce the consumption of alcohol.

The report she read was not wholly accurate. Although the World Health Assembly passed a resolution in May, 1978, recognising that alcoholism is a public health problem, it did not recommend that governments should take legislative measures to reduce the consumption of alcohol.

Speaking in Geneva on behalf of that committee I said that, although I was not a doctor, I was a member of the relationship between total consumption of alcoholic beverages and a wide range of medical and social ills that we were recommending that governments take legislative measures to reduce the consumption of alcohol.

There is also good evidence that when consumption falls as a result of price increases or other legislative changes, the incidence of readily measurable phenomena like arrests for public drunkenness, deaths from cirrhosis and hospital admissions for alcoholism and delirium tremens also fall, and this would not happen if excessive drinkers did not drink less under these circumstances.

It is also important to appreciate that the cost of alcoholic drink has been rising steadily in the United Kingdom for the past two decades because the effective level of taxation has been allowed to fall, and that this is a cause of concern to the Treasury. A rise in consumption that has occurred during this period.

The committee did not

recommend how this reduction

in consumption should be

achieved, if only because circumstances vary so much from one country to another.

Your correspondent asks why I think that putting up the price will stop people drinking and suggests that those who drink to excess will continue to do so, whatever the cost.

The answer to her question is that there is historical evidence in this country, and more recent evidence from several other countries, that consumption shows a consistent tendency to rise and fall with changes in price relative to average disposable income.

There is also good evidence that when consumption falls as a result of price increases or other legislative changes, the incidence of readily measurable phenomena like arrests for public drunkenness, deaths from cirrhosis and hospital admissions for alcoholism and delirium tremens also fall, and this would not happen if excessive drinkers did not drink less under these circumstances.

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Support for fish farming

From The Director-General, the National Water Council

Sir, I read with interest Mr. A. Gleeson's article in *The Times* (December 7) for fish farming leads him to make a rather misleading statement about water authorities obstructing progress.

The water industry co-operated with the National Farmers' Union in the drafting of their useful guidelines for fish farmers, and would support in principle the majority of their legislative proposals.

The council's position is stated in published papers, but briefly:

1. Fish farmers should have water supplies made available to them wherever possible, on the same terms as other industry and public water supply (with a right of appeal if permission is refused).

2. Normal water pollution control should continue to apply (there is a right of appeal) to maintain water quality, so vital for fish farmers and others.

3. Normal planning controls should apply, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

4. A better national system of fish disease control is needed, and water authorities will be where possible.

5. Fish farms should be registered - the NEU propose licensing and this seems right in principle.

6. Water authorities run hatcheries, and the statutory functions of this body should not inhibit healthy growth in the private sector.

The water industry is always willing to co-operate with fish farmers and to offer advice where it will help. It would welcome legislation to help fish farming to expand and to establish the necessary safeguards for hatchery water consumers.

P. F. SPOTT, Director-General, National Water Council, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

Status symbol?

From Mr. W. H. Wiseman

and others

Sir, We have followed with interest the correspondence in your inimitable organ concerning the status of engineers in the United Kingdom.

Any thought that your attitude would be sympathetic to our cause was dashed upon seeing *The Times* Crossword Puzzle (December 5). The solution to 25 across - "Case for engineer's application for maintenance" is, of course, "oilcan" - surely a profoundly damning comment!

We remain, your very humble servants,

W. H. WISEMAN, BSc CEng

MICE,

R. H. CARTER, MA CEng

MICE,

C. J. CHAPLIN, BSc AMICE,

A. ALLRED, BSc AMICE,

S. J. PHILLIPS, BSc AMICE,

18 Tower Lane,

Maidshead,

Som.

Role of accountants in the running of a company

From Mr J. F. Ellis

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Enterprise the 'basis for creating wealth'

By Peter Hill

Encouragement of the entrepreneur and enhancement of the engineering profession were identified by Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, last night as crucial to the revitalisation of Britain's industrial base.

He suggested that both should be accorded the highest priority if society was to recognise the importance of creating wealth rather than its redistribution. Both, he said, were proposals for using the country's resources more effectively.

Presenting the Hawksley Lecture at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Sir Peter traced the decline of Britain's manufacturing performance but said that the decline was not inherently irreversible.

On poor productivity, he suggested that macro-economic factors such as the level of investment might be much less important than a combination of managerial and labour practices in explaining international differences in output per head. Studies supported the idea that

impediments to mobility of labour between industries might be partly responsible for Britain's relatively low level of output per man.

Recent surveys by economic forecasting organisations suggested that Britain could well be heading in the short term for an absolute decline in its welfare measures by gross domestic product but the country was not going to accept the logical translation of that decline into its earnings.

"The further ahead you look, the more disturbing the underlying trends appear," said Sir Peter, adding that North Sea oil and gas was, to a great extent, cushioning the country from the consequences of poor manufacturing performance. This made it all the more difficult to bring home the message of relative decline.

"In developing our society, we have too often ignored the virtues of enterprise. It is enterprise which lies at the heart of our ability to create wealth."

Government, he said, could only control the framework in which enterprise could flourish, and this it was seeking to do through its fiscal policies.

Tape supply threat to computer companies

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

The planned supply of magnetic tape units for three leading computer companies - Control Data and NCR in the United States and International Computers Ltd (ICL) in Britain - is threatened by development problems at a jointly owned subsidiary company, CPI Data Peripherals, of Stevenage.

The parent of the Stevenage company is Computer Peripherals Inc (CPI), of Minneapolis, which was set up in 1972 by Control Data and NCR. ICL joined in 1975. CPI is now owned 60 per cent by Control Data and 20 per cent each by NCR and ICL.

CPI's task is to develop and make magnetic tape units and tape systems known as the ATS-3. The remaining 200 make printers.

In the view of the parent companies, it is now unlikely that the ATS-3 will be accept-

able for their computer systems, mainly for reasons of cost and delivery dates. The viability of the project is doubtful, and the probability is that the Stevenage tape activity will be ended soon.

A spokesman for CPI in Minneapolis confirmed yesterday that a thorough evaluation of the project was under way, with a decision on whether or not to continue due to be made in January. The printer manufacturing activity at Stevenage, he said, was likely to be sold or transferred.

There has been no single technical problem in connection with the ATS-3, it is understood, but a gradually worsening cost-effectiveness as the development has been progressing. It has been under development for more than two years.

Recently Mr Peter Sachs, the managing director of CPI Data Peripherals, left the company. Yesterday Mr Jim Holbrook, acting managing director, was referring all inquiries about the company (including the number of employees at Stevenage) to Minneapolis.

'UK gain' from ending flags of convenience

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Putting in another tier

achieved some success over the past few years with a revival of the 163(2) for unlisted securities, the Stock Exchange is going one step further and proposing a new and additional unlisted tier.

This tier will attract companies unable to meet the onerous requirements for full listing but who nevertheless enjoy being part of the stock market and some of the benefits available in the senior, or top tier market.

The purpose of doing this now may not be clear, especially to those who enter the Rule 163(2) market. But apart from the Stock Exchange's commendable aim of encouraging growth of developing businesses, it is also an awareness that the Wilson Committee's report on the subject of listing when it reports next year will have the over-the-counter market as a key part of its potential business.

The proposed market looks a much more serious alternative to the Nightingale 163(2) will continue. Rule 163(2) is designed for low profile companies who wanted to stay that way and had no intention of being more or less unregulated, but being imposed by the sponsor than the Stock Exchange.

Nevertheless the Stock Exchange may be the new USM against its own best interests. It would undoubtedly have to avoid such trading as the highest of all, smacks of the fragmentation used to worry people so much a few years ago. But the new issue market has led for too long and shows no sign of reviving that the Stock Exchange afford to take any other view at the time this "transitional market" where less and cost of entry are less rigid, and where the dangers of loss of control of their companies are being eliminated and from where it is easier to gain entry to the senior market.

Nightingale meanwhile it looks like formidable competition for, just as it is an Ariel threatened its traditional business a few years ago, the Exchange is moving effectively in its monopoly.

ed to rsify

der business has never been the same since the duty was levied for the first time over two years ago and Bulmer as a one-product company has had a time ever since trying to plug the gap.

Latest half-year figures, showing profits before exceptional up from £2m 8m, managed to impress the market.



Sir John Bulmer, Chairman of Bulmer.

the shares gained a couple of pence. But Bulmer is unlikely ever to see his sort of returns if made out of cider.

1977.

ing margins on cider have improved period from 11.8 to 12.5 per cent, to an 8 per cent price increase and a raw material costs owing to the apple crop last year, but this is some down on the 15 per cent the group at its peak. And cider sales are the only profit from the 7 per cent company growth in the early 1970s and Bulmer

was the success at in industrial relations, consider that the balance at the yard had been weighed too favourably the shop stewards there was the Polish the ships have been kept at, but at great cost at Covan last year led to £13m and this year rise to nearer £20m. The cause has been the order contract was negotiated with Shipbuilders with backing of the Labour ment which was about the loss of jobs. In all, the absence of itable shipbuilding, on side appears to have been rather unfairly around let's neck.

has had to spend heavily on promotion to keep sales even 2 per cent ahead in the latest period.

As it is, Bulmer is making only hesitant steps to move away from its cider roots. Wines and spirits are doing well enough but are still only 3 per cent of trading profits while the moves overseas to Australia and the United States are small in scale and ambition.

Borrowings have continued to escalate and will be some £2m higher at £9.5m next April but gearing will only be 40 per cent and the rise is hopefully temporary while the funding of last year's exceptional apple crop continues.

But a likely yield of just over 7 per cent with profits this year still some way away from the £3.9m peak is little enough support for a company that needs to find another profits leg to stand on.

Marley Finding new markets

Marley's profits were almost exactly as forecast. They rose £3.5m to £22.1m, again demonstrating the building products and do-it-yourself company's ability to locate new markets. The final dividend was 3.57p, bringing the year's payout to 5.7p, an increase of 44 per cent, at the net dividend.

The weak link was the United Kingdom. A poor winter depressed first-half results, so that trading profit at home grew just £533,000 to £15.1m. But these circumstances are not likely to be repeated. Marley expects that roofing tile sales next year will be much the same as this, and any reduction in profits on the construction side will be offset by stronger DIY sales with floorspace in retail stores nearly doubling in 1980 to 720,000 sq ft.

And whatever happens at home, overseas sales seem set for a further substantial rise. Trading profit abroad went up by £4.28m to £11.5m, with South Africa, France, Canada and Eire particularly strong.

Acquisitions in the United States and Brazil accounted for about £8m of the £19m increase in borrowings to a total of £51m. But at that rate, gearing is still low and the leasing operation continues to work its magic on tax liabilities.

Profits after tax of £26m are easily within reach, with the present dividend cover of 4.4, allowing the payout again to be raised faster than profits go up. At 78p the shares yield 7.3 per cent.

Guthrie Underlying potential

Plantation shares have hardly looked back since Sir John Guthrie brought asset values into the open through its abortive bid for Guthrie Corporation earlier this year.

It is no surprise then that Guthrie shares yesterday shrugged off signs that the group is likely to miss its £30m profit forecast for the full year by a fair margin. Although not up to best hopes, interim profits are 90 per cent ahead at £9.1m thanks to burgeoning plantation profits, on the back of firm rubber and palm oil prices, and a quite dramatic recovery in the United States manufacturing operations.

Against this meagre losses mainly from the carpets and textile operations in the United Kingdom and Australia and trading losses in Africa and the Middle East are a drag on profits. However, sterling's strength and rising interest rates are the main reasons that Guthrie seems unlikely to manage much more than £27.5m for the full year against £20.5m.

This points to a p/e of around 13 and yield of at least 6.7 per cent on the forecast payment with the shares easing 5p to 589p yesterday.

This rating reflects a net asset value of 628p as well as the attractions of a growing Malaysian economy, and commodities in general, and to some extent hopes that Sir John will return to the fray next March.

The last possibility is beginning to seem unlikely. Although ending of exchange controls would mean Sir John could use its shares to bid next time, the run up in the share price could have put its quarry beyond reach for the moment.

Economic notebook

Oiling the wheels of the Exchequer

The western world is bracing itself for still higher oil prices after next week's meeting of the oil exporters in Caracas. But for the British Government the cloud of dearer oil has a silver lining.

For every 10 per cent that the oil price is pushed up, the Government's revenues from the North Sea rise by more than 10 per cent. Although these revenues have had only a marginal impact on government finances, they will become an increasingly important factor in the equation of public spending, borrowing and taxation.

The rise in oil prices which has already taken place this year has thrown out most estimates of the effects of the Government's revenues from the North Sea. Higher than expected prices have an effect on the estimated benefits of North Sea oil both to Britain's balance of payments and to the Government's tax receipts.

Of course, higher oil prices outweigh these benefits in the long run. If Opec pushes the price up significantly next week, as it almost certainly will, there will be many unpleasant consequences for the world economy which will naturally damage Britain too.

World inflation will probably accelerate, growth will slow down and there will be increased instability in the international financial markets. As payments imbalances build up.

So far most discussion of the economic effects of the North Sea has concentrated on the balance of payments improvement and the consequent effect on the pound's exchange rate. As Britain has moved towards oil self-sufficiency, and as oil-dominated foreign exchange markets have buoyed up sterling, this emphasis has been timely.

However, Britain is moving into a period when the flood of North Sea oil money into the

line with inflation, the Government can expect to get about £10,000m of tax relating to 1985 production, according to the Institute's calculations. This compares with expected North Sea revenues of about £2,000m to £2,500m this financial year.

The Government is apparently reluctant to make detailed projections of its North Sea revenues, although it is clear that officials believe the national income figures to be on the high side.

The Inland Revenue has not in the past made forecasts of expected revenues from any tax. However, there are at least two reasons for supposing that the Government should join private stockbrokers and economists in attempting some sums on oil taxes.

First, the Government has to produce some revenue projections in connection with its suggested medium-term financial plan—even though it looks increasingly unlikely that such a plan will see the light of day.

Secondly, oil revenues could be large enough to change significantly the structure of taxes in Britain over the next few years. In recent years the personal sector has shouldered more and more of the tax burden with a corresponding decline in the proportion of corporation tax paid.

In some people's wilder dreams, profits from the North Sea could mean that oil companies pay enough to the Government to let the rest of us off income tax altogether or wipe out the Government's borrowing.

Although this is almost inconceivable, it is true that oil revenues may save the Government from putting up income tax or even enable it to knock a few pence more off the standard rate in the years after 1980.

The Treasury's latest estimates, published in August, suggest that the North Sea tax take would total about £4,750m at 1978 prices by the mid 1980s.

For comparison, the Government raised £18,750m from income tax during 1978-79 and had a total borrowing requirement of £9,251m, with a target of £8,300m for this year.

Since the Treasury based its figure on the assumption of a falling real sterling price of oil, it is already outdated by this year's price rises.

Stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie are updating their latest estimates to take account of the recent surge in oil price rises. They expect North Sea revenues to rise to well over £10,000m (in money terms) by the mid-1980s.

There is no simple relationship between rises in the oil price and the increase in government revenues. There are three distinct sources of revenue—corporate income tax and petroleum revenue tax. The last two rise more than proportionately with the price, as increased profits bring more into the tax net and as the fixed costs which have been written off in the early years of production do not rise with the price.

The sharp rises in oil prices which have already taken place this year together with the prospect of more to come next week, have apparently influenced the Government's depletion policy in the North Sea. Until now the Treasury has resisted any attempts to slow down oil production.

This week, however, Mr David Howell, the Energy Secretary, hinted that the Government intends to have a positive depletion policy. Depletion means that Britain can afford to keep it longer in the ground.

Unfortunately, the prospects for the economy are so dismal that North Sea oil is more likely to cause misery than to solve any problems. The oil-induced increase in government revenues may well be eaten up as quickly as the balance of payments benefits have so far been devoured.

Even if the price rises just in

North Sea oil and gas benefits (£m)		
To:	Balance of current account	Government revenue (£m)
1978	4,081	1,842
1979	8,387	2,988
1980	10,489	5,231
1981	13,384	6,967
1982	16,785	11,496
1983	20,505	14,067
1985	28,485	21,521

Figures assume real sterling price of oil of £10 a barrel and a 10 per cent depletion allowance.

Figures corresponding to each period's production, payments are made later.

Source: National Institute Economic Review, Nov 1978.

Government's coffers is at least as striking as the oil-based improvements to Britain's overseas payments.

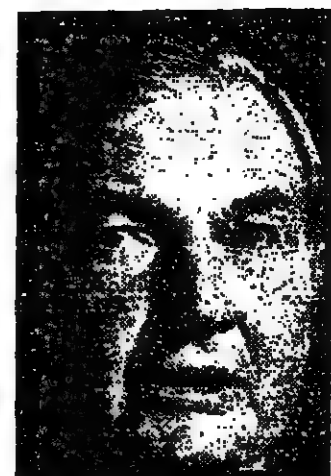
Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to work out just how much money the Government will get and when. The table shows one possible profile of the current account benefits and government revenues from North Sea operations over the next half decade. This is probably on the high side, and is certainly way above the last published figures of the Government. The figures in the second column show the tax payable on the production in each year. The payments would actually be made later.

It is based on a not unreasonable assumption that the real price of oil, in sterling terms, rise by 6 per cent a year between now and 1985.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research points out that if the real sterling oil price (after taking account of inflation) rises by as much as 10 per cent a year between now and 1980 then North Sea oil production in that year would yield £30,000m of tax, although this would not be paid until later.

Even if the price rises just in

A bigger recycling role for the IMF?



Mr David Rockefeller, chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank: the banks face growing risks.

New York

Many oil-importing nations will face balance of payments difficulties next year and acute strains may be placed on the international financial system. The precise nature of the problems which emerge will depend on the attitudes of commercial banks and the International Monetary Fund to lending to deficit nations and the ability of the fund and the banks to provide adequate resources.

Mr David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, says that the real problem is that the risks in lending to many of the oil-importing developing countries have increased and in many cases banks are reaching their lending limits for individual countries.

The truth is simply that many of the countries that used to have no debt servicing capabilities now shoulder very heavy debt loads. To add to these debt loads is to increase the risk banks have to take. In view of this Mr Rockefeller has no doubt that the IMF will have to play a much bigger role.

Surplus

What makes the outlook so worrying is the sheer dimensions of the problem. Mr Rockefeller expects the combined surplus of the oil exporting nations this year to total \$55,000m and to rise to possibly \$75,000m in 1980. These vast amounts have to be recycled to the oil importers to enable them to pay their oil bills.

A large part of this recycling may well have to be undertaken by the IMF in due course and Mr Rockefeller is worried about this. He was not certain that the IMF would have sufficient capabilities for some time.

He does not see the problem for the banks being a shortage of deposits by oil exporters and says that, despite the Carter Administration's freezing of Iranian assets, there has been no change whatsoever in Chase's relations with other oil-exporting countries. Nor does he expect any change in the

But informal talks are taking place more frequently between the fund and the banks and cooperation has been experienced, and will be experienced more often in the future, as it is an example of the way that the banks, together with the fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Turkish Government, worked cooperatively together to help with Turkey's financial crisis.

So far, few officials in international organizations and national governments have shown much concern in public for next year's recycling problems. The worries of the bankers seem valid enough and perhaps it is high time that officials at least prepared for the creation of some new kind of facility, or some sort of international financial safety net.

Mr Rockefeller is not alone in expressing his worries. Mr Rimmer de Vries, a senior vice-president at Morgan Guaranty Trust, said in Paris recently that the foreign investments and cash assets of Opec were likely to rise to \$300,000m in 1980 from \$160,000m at the end of 1978.

Tensions

The commercial banks would be unable to handle such vast amounts, he said, and because of rising risks they would be unable to lend to growing numbers of developing countries. The official authorities must do more of the lending and take other steps to reduce the monetary tensions that could emerge as Opec handles such huge assets.

As one listens to the bankers one is forced to the conclusion that for a variety of reasons the nervousness and sense of uncertainty in financial markets may be greater next year than this. There is no alternative now other than to welcome much greater IMF and official involvement in the financial aspects of Opec's surpluses.

One must hope that action is taken in good time to ensure that crises do not develop, rather than that, as so often in the past, officials decide on action is needed only after all manner of grave difficulties have surfaced.

Frank Vogl

Killing Leyland with kindness

Michael Grylls

MPs of all parties admire the achievements of Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of British Leyland. He has brought back respect for management and he has cut over-managing by 18,000 jobs.

But he has still to prove that he can run a profitable motor car company.

If the public were asked whether the Government should put more taxpayer's money into BL, the answer would be a resounding "No". As so often, the public would be right.

Yet, we are told, "without more money BL is dead". This is simply not true.

Since it was rescued Leyland has had hundreds of millions of pounds from the Government. Yet, despite this largesse from the taxpayer, it built 400,000 fewer vehicles last year than it did seven years ago, and its United Kingdom market share has slumped from 32 per cent to 16 per cent.

Where has all the money gone? Some has been spent on new plant and machinery; Leyland today has some very modern factories. But much has gone simply to meet losses due to strikes.

The core of BL's trouble is low productivity. In 1972 it was six vehicles per man year; in 1978 it was down to four vehicles per man year. Continental companies achieve twenty vehicles per man year and the Japanese strain twice that figure.

A year ago the National

Enterprise Board told MPs that Leyland's productivity was expected to rise by 18.5 per cent. In fact it dropped by 3 per cent.

Yet, if Leyland were to get back to 1972 productivity figures it would be generating good profits and the taxpayer would be let off the hook.

Unbelievably, despite Leyland's poor performance, its workers today are demanding an extra £1,250 a year—a bit cheeky when the company is seeking further money handouts from the long-suffering taxpayer.

The Prime Minister says that the Government will not finance excessive wage claims from the public sector. Surely any wage claim from an ailing company such as BL is excessive? This is another reason for Parliament to refuse BL further cash.

Leyland has suffered enough from easy money from the taxpayer. Governments have clutched at every straw to justify more money, despite the company's making fewer vehicles and negligible profits. Success is always "just around the corner".

The truth is that today Leyland needs nothing but that most difficult of remedies for a politician to prescribe. It needs to be left alone.

Every parent knows that you can kill with kindness—and that might just happen to British Leyland.

The author is Vice-chairman, Conservative Industry Committee.

Business Diary: Why Gilchrist went • Macmillan ahoy

by was Archie Gilchrist. He dismissed as chief of Govan Shipbuilders Clyde's many standards. He had success of bringing the minds of Upper Clyde leaders to a rational way of thinking. Demarcation had productivity. He had and the 13 ships in which order were common without incurring penalties.

Today workers agreed to 1,800 redundancies at d. Hypotheses are current. It is a man with a direct perhaps too direct for a Govan Shipbuilders' face that British Shipbuilders even considered that it might meekly resign a basic misunderstanding of their man.

was the success at in industrial relations, consider that the balance at the yard had been weighed too favourably the shop stewards there was the Polish the ships have been kept at, but at great cost at Covan last year led to £13m and this year rise to nearer £20m. The cause has been the order contract was negotiated with Shipbuilders with backing of the Labour ment which was about the loss of jobs. In all, the absence of itable shipbuilding, on side appears to have been rather unfairly around let's neck.

Nathalie Hogg (right) seems to have an excellent chance of becoming one of France's youngest lady managing directors, although she no doubt wishes the opportunity came elsewhere, and by any other means.

Her father, Robert Hogg, chairman of the jewellers Cartier, was a resistance fighter who advised Blachonnet, commander of the lighters, pens and leather goods activities. Hogg gave made his mark in business as head of the Silver Match lighter company. He pushed first gas lighters, then disposable refills and helped give France its lead in throw-away lighters.

A rather inharmonious game of musical chairs is being played by the supervisory board of Daimler-Benz, West Germany's greatest motor manufacturer.

Wilfried Guch, Daimler's supervisory board chairman, cannot find a place on the board for the company's outgoing chief executive, Dr Joachim Zahn.

It is not that Dr Zahn is not wanted on the supervisory board—the body that is charged with watching over the activities of the company's management. Indeed, in more than 20 years as a member of the group's top management Dr



In 1972 he was brought in by Rothschilds and Paribas to give some polish to the affairs of the lacklustre Cartier.

Zahn has more than anybody shaped Daimler's policy and helped it to its outstanding success.

It's just that, if anything, he has been too successful. Daimler is now such an important company that none of the bankers or industrialists elected to represent shareholders' interests on the supervisory board is prepared to make way for him on his retirement at the end of the year.

It now seems as if Dr Guch has come up with a solution. He is said to be trying to talk the representative of the shareholders' protection society into vacating his board seat to make way for Dr Zahn.

Little has been heard of Maurice—son of Harold—Macmillan since his brief spell as Secretary of State for Employment in the Heath government.

With the little job he has picked up this week, however, he is back on the scene in his politically most contentious role since 1974 and the three-day week.

Macmillan is to be a non-executive director of the Glasgow maritime engineering consultants, Yarrow and Company. Nothing very interesting about that, you might think, since Yarrow likes to have a Tory politician around the place.

In June this year, for example, it piped aboard Baroness Shrimshire of Quarter, but she died last month. As Betty Harvie Anderson, the Tory MP for Renfrew East, she had been what the company's chairman Sir Eric Yarrow has called "a staunch friend and supporter of the company for many years."

It is mildly interesting that the new boy is the MP for Farnham, Surrey, has a country place in Gloucestershire and is chairman of the family publishing firm—and therefore not perhaps best known for his love of going down to the sea in ships. It is interesting, if a little confusing, that he is said to be in the Yarrow boardroom where they already have one Macmillan, the company secretary.

But, then, that would be to overlook the fact that Sir Eric, despite his affection for Tory MPs, is no longer best known

for his love of Tory ministers. This is because his maritime engineering consultancy was once a shipbuilder, until two years ago when Labour ministers nationalized that part of the business.

Now Tory ministers, in particular Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, plan no longer to nationalize the yards, although the party manifesto last year said Sir Eric to think otherwise.

Sir Eric wanted his yard back and is gloomy about getting compensation that reflects his estimate of asset value and prospects at the time Yarrow (Shipbuilders) "went public".

He cannot even get anywhere with Sir Keith's last over about £1m of Yarrow (Shipbuilders) pre-nationalization profits. Sir Eric says these have been "virtually confiscated".

Sir Eric, therefore, would seem more than ever in need of another "staunch friend and supporter." Who better than Macmillan, a former Tory minister and one of the party's Toffery?

This being the stamp-ticking season, I thought my eightpenny note would make a pretty good reminder, so I asked the Post Office if they had changed the gum. No, they said, it just tastes worse if you have been drinking—which I had—or if you have been eating smoked salmon—which I had not. Wonder if a temperance coast guard claim an epidemic of size or weight of smoked salmon?

Ross Davies

Redfearn National Glass

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Year ended 30 September 1979

	1979 £'000	1978 £'000
Sales	55,968	48,045
Trading Profit	4,360	4,420
Interest payable (net)	1,047	521
Profit before tax	3,313	3,899
Retained Profit	2,011	2,530
Dividend per share	16.55p	15.84p
Earnings per ordinary share	49.67p	58.80p

Mr. John Pratt, Chairman, reports:

"Profits for the year ended 30 September amounted to £3,300,000. This is a reduction of £600,000 compared with the previous year's figure."

It will be apparent to shareholders that, after the trading results of the first half, recovery in the second half of the year was rapid and largely successful.

Last year I said that the level of capital expenditure for 1978/79 would be substantially lower and the actual total for the year was £3.7m. Despite the difficulties created by the road haulage strike—and the state of competition—there has been a net cash inflow during the year.

Despite present economic uncertainties, we have great confidence in glass as a packaging medium. Results for the full year 1979/80 are likely to be comparable with those of 1978/79."

The Directors recommend that a final ordinary dividend of 11.27p per share be paid for the year ended 30 September 1979, making a total of 16.55p per share for the year. This compares with 15.84p per share in respect of 1978 and, with the addition of the associated tax credit, maintains the gross dividend at the same rate as last year.

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 15 January 1980 and the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Royal Station Hotel, York at 12 noon on Wednesday 13 February 1980.

REDFEARN NATIONAL GLASS, FISHERGATE, YORK, YO1 4AD.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

CompAir not as bad as feared

By Rosemary Unsworth

CompAir, the manufacturer of compressed air equipment, slightly exceeded market expectations by producing a 53.2m profit last on a small increase in turnover.

Pre-tax profits fell to 58.35m compared with 111.6m on a turnover of 153.5m against 147m in the year to September 30, 1979. The share price moved up 4 1/2p to 60 1/2p on the announcement.

Problems started at the beginning of the year with the transport strike, which Sir William Mather, chairman, said had hit companies much more severely than anticipated. This was followed by the Iranian revolution where CompAir has lost sales worth £6m during the year; the engineering dispute which took place at the end of the year; and a strike at the group's computer division in September.

Margins also proved difficult to maintain, particularly overseas thanks to the increased strength of sterling, he added. "World markets for compressed air equipment remained extremely competitive, notably in the construction sector which continued in recession."

A final dividend of 4.07p gross has been proposed against 3.7p, making a total of 6.6p. Given the importance of the group's overseas activities—two thirds of turnover is from abroad—Sir William said that there would be a clearer view of prospects at the time of the AGM in February.

Costs will slow Redfearn

By Alison Mitchell

Better second-half profits at Redfearn National Glass are good as far as they go, but these are not far. Exceptional costs which will be borne in the first half of the current period will leave the year's profits for 1979-80 on the £3.5m plateau for the third year running.

Although the group followed a first-half profit of £340,000 with a £1m profit in the second six months the pre-tax figure for the 52 weeks to September 30, 1979 amounted to £3.3m, against £3.9m. Sales rose 16 per cent to £56m.

The bad weather and transport strike, which hit the first six months, prompted the group to initiate a cost-cutting programme which included reducing its workforce by around 300 people. The redundancy costs, which amount to some £500,000 will be taken into the



Mr. J. L. C. Pratt, chairman of Redfearn National Glass.

factory will reduce capacity for 10 weeks in the first six months and the group is likely to do little more than break even.

However, the group is confident that it will be able to make up lost ground in the second six months. The cost of starting up the new plastic bottle manufacturing subsidiary will also limit first half earnings potential.

A new policy of tempering price increases to suit the market conditions has increased the sales of glass bottles but has reduced margins. At the trading level these fell from 9.2 to 7.7 per cent.

Interest charges almost doubled to £1m despite a reduction in borrowings. At the year-end gearing, at 38 per cent, is close points below the previous level. The annual dividend stays at 23.65p.

Skyships wins more support

By Our Financial Staff

Investment interest in Britain's answer to the Starship "Enterprise" is beginning to take off. Isle of Man based Thermo-Skyships, which is attempting to raise cash for development of a lighter-than-air craft, reports renewed interest in its prospectus which was re-launched last month.

The company says that applications for the prospectus are arriving at the rate of 100 a day and so far it has received a total of £316,000 from 641 investors. The vast majority of these subscriptions have been received since December 3.

Following this renewed interest from private investors the company is extending the closing date for applications to Friday December 28, 1979. This is the second attempt to get the project off the ground. Originally launched last summer through London stockbrokers Laing and Crutchfield, the attempt to raise £6.4m crashed landed when investors only managed to chip in £400,000. European Ferries already has a 30 per cent stake in Thermo-Skyships.

Now the company has rethought its prospects the public is being asked to invest only £3.2m a minimum of £1.4m will be necessary to keep the project alive.

When the prospectus was re-launched last month there was a hint from northern stockbroker John Siddall and Son and Parsons that interest had been expressed by several institutions.

This interest has not been translated into cash yet but company spokesmen said last night that he was confident it would reach the £1.4m target with the help from one or two institutions.

Stock markets

Golds and oils active in limp trading

Share prices held firm yesterday even though dealers remained uneasy.

Hopes that equities would maintain the rally witnessed on Tuesday soon faded after dealing resumed yesterday and with it went most hopes of a major rally before the Christmas holidays.

Dealers reported that buyers were thin on the ground, in spite of the brighter political outlook, and that there were to be few highly selective.

Harold Ingram slipped 1p to 33p yesterday where they were poised to fall further. News that profits in the first half year eased from £333,615 to £270,265 is worse than it looks. The £210,265 includes £54,602 profit on the sale of machinery, and the forecast from Mr. E. Ingram is as gloomy as it was cheerful last August after the brilliant surge in profits from £219,000 to £634,000 in 1978-79.

Glits remained firm on overnight levels but succumbed to profit-taking later on. Longs dropped slightly off the top with rises on the day averaging 2 1/2p while shorts after profit taking found buyers at the lower levels to finish mostly unchanged.

After touching its high point of the day 2 1/2p at 11am the FT 100 then faded away to finish only 0.7 up at 423.5.

Leading industrials, where changed, were usually easier. Fisons dipped 2p to 237p while among those to shed a penny included ICI at 369p, Dunlop at 55p and Bechem at 120p. Among those unchanged were Glaxo at 438p, and Unilever at 454p. Pilkington, a dull spot of late, improved to 206p and the new 2p to 7p premium.

Shares of Hall Brothers Steamship were suspended at 76p after Temple Investment had confirmed that it had gained control of the company and planned to cancel its official listing and begin trading under rule 163.

Gold shares remained buoyant with the Gold Mines Index rising 1.2 to 263.7. West Britannia improved 5 1/2p to 570, Western Areas rose 10 cents to 578, and Hampton Gold improved 10p to 255p. Elsewhere in mines speculation continued to boost Consolidated Gold Fields where the shares jumped 17p to a new high of 369p.

WTZ advanced 7p to 300p following news of the Ashton diamond venture and Tanks expanded 10p to 233p. Oils remained another firm spot with Oil Exploration 10p higher at 705p after 710p spurred on by anticipated bid news. Lamsco remained unchanged, however, at 373p. Among the major oils BP rose 2p to 365p, Ultramar gained 6p to 416p, and Shell was unchanged at 342p.

Spring Grove, the second of this week's newcomers to the market got off to an initially good start, rising 4p over the stock price of 70p, before

fading to finish unchanged. Haynes Publishing, which came to market earlier this week—continued to gain ground rising 2p to 125p.

Babcock & Wilcox climbed 4p to 109p as speculative buyers moved in. The theory is that the Government's plans for atomic energy will be of much benefit.

Press comment was good for a 6p rise in Carless, Capel & Leonard to 71p and hopes of a counterbid to the one from Tricent lifted Cableform 6p to 94p. Graft Shipping improved a further 50p to 825p in anticipation of a bid from Cluff Oil. Sur Debenham's dipped 2p to 66p after it revealed that it had abandoned plans to sell its Harvey Nichols store.

Investment interest allowed for a 9p rise in Dowry at 152p and S. & W. Berisford at 163p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings per share	Dividend	Pay date	Year's total
Amberley (F)	2,929,236	0.14(0.08)	8.6(4.6)	1.25(1.25)	—	1978/79
A. Lee & Sons (F)	67,4(63.4)	1.9(1.8)	8.6(8.6)	1.25(1.25)	6/2	1978/79
Baggeridge Brick (F)	4,4(3.9)	0.57(0.52)	21.0(17.7)	4.5(—)	3/1	1978/79
Blackman Conrad (F)	4,0(4.3)	0.11(0.05)	0.6(0.7)	1.3(1.3)	2/1	1978/79
Butterfield-Harvey (F)	27,13(27.9)	0.11(1.5)	0.6(0.7)	1.3(1.3)	11/2	1978/79
Bulmer (F)	25,1(28.2)	2.2(2.5)	17.6(15.1)	3.3(3.3)	25/2	1978/79
Cardiff Cement (F)	7,0(15.04)	0.2(0.6)	17.6(15.1)	0.60(0.52)	1/4	1978/79
Dunlop (F)	7,2(6.4)	0.60(0.60)	33.7(18.06)	0.42(0.2)	—	1978/79
Doonbeg (F)	19,9(15.83)	2.3(1.5)	14.0(12.0)	1.4(1.2)	6/2	1978/79
E. & S. (F)	—	—	14.0(12.0)	1.4(1.2)	6/2	1978/79
Holroyd Rubber (F)	—	—	8.0(8.0)	0.8(0.8)	6/2	1978/79
W. D. & H. O. Wills (F)	—	—	8.0(8.0)	0.8(0.8)	6/2	1978/79
Hudgins (F)	—	—	8.0(8.0)	0.8(0.8)	6/2	1978/79
K. L. (F)	—	—	8.0(8.0)	0.8(0.8)	6/2	1978/79
Kuala Lumpur (F)	—	—	8.0(8.0)	0.8(0.8)	6/2	1978/79
Guarantee Corp (F)	133,0(125.0)	9.1(4.8)	2.2(2.2)	1.0(1.0)	14/1	1978/79
Johnson (F)	—	—	2.2(2.2)	1.0(1.0)	14/1	1978/79
Moogate (F)	—	—	2.2(2.2)	1.0(1.0)	14/1	1978/79
Normand Elect (F)	0.78(0.60)	0.65(0.50)	3.4(2.9)	1.0(1.0)	14/1	1978/79
Redfearn National Glass (F)	60,0(48.0)	3.4(2.9)	46.1(38.4)	1.0(1.0)	14/1	1978/79
Robert Moss (F)	1,6(1.2)	0.31(0.25)	1.8(1.6)	0.7(—)	21/1	1978/79
Schlesinger (F)	—	—	0.3(0.3)	0.3(0.3)	21/1	1978/79
Spiral (F)	—	—	0.2(0.2)	0.2(0.2)	21/1	1978/79
St. Helena (F)	1,7(1.9)	0.02(0.04)	46.3(23.9)	15.0(—)	—	1978/79
Ventureport (F)	—	—	0.02(0.04)	0.02(0.04)	—	1978/79
Viankonin (F)	—	—	0.02(0.04)	0.02(0.04)	—	1978/79

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Earnings per share are shown net of tax on profits per share. Dividends are shown net of tax on profits per share. Dividends are shown net of tax on profits per share.

Elson & Robbins up 32pc

By Baron Phillips

Now the Nottingham-based Elson & Robbins has reorganised production in its domestic and industrial heaters division the group is progressing strongly. In the year to September 30, 1979, Elson & Robbins reported a 26 per cent turnover surge to £19.95m. Pre-tax profits moved ahead by 32 per cent from last year's £1.8m to £2.35m.

Changes in the tax allowances on stock relief gives Elson & Robbins a substantial uplift at the after-tax level. The tax charge is only £102,902 compared with £451,000 because the group's year end is in September, a time when stocks on the balance sheet are at their highest.

A one-for-two rights issue is being proposed which will raise £12.8m at 40p a share. The board says that the money will be used to reduce borrowing which is currently standing at around £3.6m.

The directors feel it is too early to make any forecast for this year's profits but they say that the period has started well with sales in October and November substantially above those at the same time last year.

If there is no serious deterioration in the economic climate the board expects progress to be maintained this year.

Pentos-Caplan setback

By Baron Phillips

Pentos, the publishing-engineering group which recently acquired Caplan Profile group, has discovered a stock shortfall and a missed profits forecast, made at the time of the bid.

Mr. Terry Maher, the Pentos chairman, said yesterday that the group's 1979 profits, which were estimated at £500,000, would be back to 1978 levels, and the pre-tax profits for 1979 will be £1m instead of the forecast £1.4m because of the stock shortfall and a missed profits forecast.

The two markets are entirely separate, the overvaluation of assets has also affected Caplan's profits for the years in question.

The Caplan family had already repaid £700,000 of the stock shortfall and Caplan's former finance director, Mr. Reginald Harris, has repaid a further £50,000. Pentos is taking proceedings to recover the remaining £200,000, and is planning action to recover the 1979 profits shortfall.

Caplan chairman, Mr. Ian Caplan, denies any personal knowledge or legal liability. But he has resigned from Caplan and Pentos boards and Mr. Harris has been relieved of all his responsibilities in the Caplan group.

Mr. Maher takes over as Caplan chairman, and Mr. J. Clark, a Pentos executive, has become deputy chairman and chief executive.

Half-year setback at Butterfield-Harvey

By Baron Phillips

Last winter's industrial disruption followed by the national engineering strike in August and September are blamed for the profits slump at Butterfield-Harvey. For the six months to September 30, 1979, pre-tax profits fell from £1.55m last year to £1.11m. Turnover for the half year marked time at £27.13m.

The board estimates that industrial action this year has cost the group a lot more than £1m. The current half started poorly due to the aftermath of the engineers' dispute and a reduction in local authority spending but there has been an improvement in the final quarter of the year which will lead to a resumption of the group's upward profit trend.

Heavier interest hits Durapipe

Interest payable in the half-year to September 30 more than doubled to £212,000 (against £54,000) at Durapipe International. As a result, pre-tax profits slipped from £621,000 to £603,000. Turnover was up from £6.46m to £7.32m.

The interim payment, gross, goes up from 0.75p (adjusted) to 0.88p. Because of the group's policy of continued expansion into new projects at home and overseas, interest

charges will, for the time being, have an increasing effect on performance, the board warns. Depending on the results of the overseas companies, the group should continue to trade "satisfactorily".

Weather warning from Bardon Hill

On sales 24 per cent higher at £9.47m, pre-tax profits of the Bardon Hill Group rose by 42 per cent to £1.01m. The half-year to September 30, earnings per share rose by 19 per cent to 21p and the interim dividend goes up from 5.5p to 6.42p.

The board warns that the weather's results will be "greatly influenced" not only by the weather, but also by the political and international situations, quarries, civil engineering, crane and plant hire; its shares are traded on the over-the-counter market made by M. J. H. Nightingale.

NSS rises by 9pc at pre-tax level

Despite a strong uplift in sales, NSS Newsagents could only manage a 9 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year to October 1, 1979. Annual sales came out at £72,765m, an improvement of 28 per cent. But the company only produced pre-tax profits of £4.05m against £3.71m last time.

THORN ELECTRICAL

Prudential Corp., as a result of Thorn's merger with S.M. Holdings, 9.05m Thorn shares which, assuming full redemption of the offer, represents 5.19 per cent.

VECTIS STONE GROUP

Company has entered into conditional contract to acquire 30,000 £1 ordinary shares, being 89 per cent of share capital of Columbia Products Company from Gold Investments of United States. Consideration for purchase is £2m (about £93,000).

CITY OF DUBLIN BANK

City of Dublin Bank reports a 13.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £286,000 (1978) for year to end-September—fourth successive year of records. Gross income, at £5.48m, was up by 79 per cent. Total dividend, 3.74p (3.25p).

W. MOWAT & SONS

Pre-tax profit for year to May 31, £1,822 (£20,046). Year's accounts have been qualified by auditors.

R. W. TOOTHILL

Sales for half-year to September 30, £1.35m (£1.35m). Pre-tax profit, £4,637 (£24,174).

WEST OF ENGLAND

Britannia Arrow Holdings is interested in 1.37m shares (8.56 per cent) of West of England Trust.

Part of this poorer performance was forecasted in the group's interim statement when chairman, Mr. Philip Byam-Cook, reported that performance in the second quarter had been hit by strikes and adverse weather.

Over half-million at Baggeridge

On turnover just 13 per cent greater at £4.47m for the year to September 30, pre-tax profits of Baggeridge Brick jumped by 75.8 per cent to £572,000—the first time the company has topped the £500,000 mark. Earnings per share more than trebled to 12.57p, against 3.64p, while the total gross dividend is being boosted from 5.85p to 5.35p.

Recovery continues at Blackman

Self-financing the recovery which began in 1978-79, the Blackman and Conrad clothing and industrial wear group doubled its profits in the half-year to July 31. Pre-tax, they reached £1,000,000 against pre-tax profits of 1978 of £550,000. And this was in spite of turnover contracting from £4.38m to £4.08m. The board reports that current trading is at a "satisfactory level" and since January 31 group borrowings have been substantially reduced. Blackman tumbled into losses of over £200,000 in 1977.

SKETCHLEY

Company has purchased 51 per cent of the capital of Greasdale of Colchester, Essex, for consideration of £175,000 in cash and an additional sum payable in mid-1981 dependent on the profits of the company for year to March 31, 1981.

EGGD GUARANTEES LOAN

The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed the £800,000 loan which William and Glyn's Bank has made available to a consortium of Norwegian oil companies. The loan will be used to finance the purchase of UK equipment.

MOORGATE INVESTMENT

Gross revenue for half-year to November 30 up from £195,000 to £250,000. Interim dividend, gross, 3.1p (2.51p). Board expects to pay total dividend of not less than 8.56p (6.82p).

R. GREEN PROPERTIES

Mr. D. R. Kirk has acquired a further 10,000 shares in R. Green Properties, making total holding of 65,000 shares (5.61 per cent).

SMITH INDUSTRIES

Chairman, Mr. Roy Simcox, told annual meeting that group was normal working has been resumed after engineering strike, the board is encouraged by the trend evident in October and November trading results. But this is not on the company's side to make good the profit shortfall by half-year.

SHAW CARPETS

Turnover for 27 weeks to November 24, £18.46m (£18.1m for 26 weeks). Pre-tax profits, £518,000 (£549,000). Interim dividend, estimated at 0.71p gross.

CONCENTRIC

The Board of Concentric and Samuel Groves & Co announce that discussions concerning the possible acquisition of Groves & Co. Concentric announced on 3 December, 1979, have now been terminated.



Union Corporation Group

Gold Mines

Points made in the Statements by the Chairmen
Mr. E. Pavitt and Mr. L. W. P. van den Bosch

- * A year of record breaking activity in the gold market.
- * Ore reserves up on higher gold price.
- * Increases in working costs kept below average.
- * Improved efficiency with more experienced work force.
- * Equal employment opportunities for all races now vitally necessary.

Results for the year ended 30th September 1979 (compared with results for previous year)

Name of Company	Tons Milled '000	Gold Produced Kg	Net Profit R'000	Dividends cents per share	Tons Ore Reserves '000	Value gms/ton
Bracken	770 (798)	4,682 (5,389)	7,849 (6,649)	52 (44)	2,500 (1,400)	5.7 (8.3)
Kinross	1,580 (1,560)	8,896 (11,532)	17,019 (13,961)	74 (55)	6,300 (5,700)	7.1 (8.3)
Leslie	1,025 (928)	4,201 (4,228)	5,162 (3,599)	32 (21)	3,200 (1,600)	4.6 (6.2)
St. Helena	1,932 (1,930)	17,305 (17,429)	32,495 (22,212)	300 (190)	10,900 (7,500)	11.6 (15.5)
Unisel	—	—	—	—	700	8.9
Winkelhaak	2,100 (2,077)	15,488 (15,785)	29,584 (19,885)	205 (129)	9,400 (7,000)	8.3 (9.8)

Ore reserves are those calculated at a gold price of R7,500 per kilogram (US\$280 per ounce) for 1979; R5,500 per kilogram (US\$200 per ounce) for 1978.

Bracken Mines Limited

Development in the endorsed prospecting area on the farm Witklooffontein has been accelerated. To the east, Kinross Mines Limited has developed an area on behalf of the Company. Values exposed have been encouraging and stopping operations will now be put in hand. As there are limited areas within the lease area which remain to be developed, we estimate that at current gold prices the life of the mine could be about four years.

In August 1979 the mine became a double millionaire for the first time, completing two million consecutive fatality free shifts.

Kinross Mines Limited

A considerable portion of the development took place in the No. 2 shaft area where values have so far proved to be higher than in the blocks presently being mined from the No. 1 shaft complex. Stopping in the No. 2 shaft area commenced recently and it is anticipated that in the coming year there will be a steady increase in production from this area and a concomitant reduction in operations in the southern section of the mine. At the same time production from the higher grade northern area is likely to offset further yield reductions in the low grade southern sections of the mine.

Leslie Gold Mines Limited

In the coming year further reductions in yield can be expected in line with the lower grade ore which can now be mined in terms of the lease agreement. The higher gold price has made it possible to re-enter previously unpayable areas and re-equipping of these areas is being carried out.

Taking the present gold price to cost ratio we estimate that the mine will be able to continue in operation for at least a further five years but at reduced grades.

St. Helena Gold Mines Limited

Development was again mainly confined to the No. 8 shaft area and particularly towards the Omgond boundary. The Basal and Leader reef have been intersected and some encouraging values have been exposed.

The fluctuating gold price has added considerably to the major problem of forward planning of mining operations and the economic mining of the lower grade areas of the mine. This is an important factor in opening up the Omgond area.

At No. 8 shaft a surface chilled water refrigeration plant has been commissioned to supplement the existing plants. This ventilation method has proved to be most efficient in improving underground working conditions.

Unisel Gold Mines Limited

Progress has been most satisfactory and the mine officially opened on 2 October 1979. Stopping in the

Authorized Unit Trusts

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- APPOINTMENTS VACANT 22
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- CONTRACTS AND TENDERS 22
- DOMESTIC SITUATIONS 22
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- PUBLIC NOTICES 22
- SECRETARIAL AND 22
- SECRETARIAL AND 22
- SITUATIONS WANTED 22

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Quoted in connection with advertisements, the above have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tell:

Classified Queries Department

01-837 1234, ext. 7180

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

PLEASE CHECK

YOUR AD

We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each error is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Queries Department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY IS

24 HOURS

Alterations to copy 5.00 pm prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

(JESUS) said, "Take heed that ye do not deceive yourselves. I will come as a thief in the night. When the Son of Man shall come, ye shall not know the day nor the hour."

BIRTHS

DOUGLAS—On Dec 6th, at Fairview Hospital, Mrs. Douglas (Mrs. Douglas) and Peter Douglas.

EMERY—On Dec 11th, at the St. Mary's Hospital, Mrs. Emery (Mrs. Emery) and John Emery.

GILBY—On Dec 11th, at the St. Mary's Hospital, Mrs. Gilby (Mrs. Gilby) and John Gilby.

GOOD—On Dec 11th, at the St. Mary's Hospital, Mrs. Good (Mrs. Good) and John Good.

HAYWOOD—On Dec 11th, at the St. Mary's Hospital, Mrs. Haywood (Mrs. Haywood) and John Haywood.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

—where more of your money goes to research the campaign to cure cancer.

THE RIGHT AGAINST LEUKAEMIA MUST CONTINUE 'TIL IT'S WON

Although research has been made in the past, it is still a very real and deadly disease.

CHRISTMAS DOGS DINNER FUND

For over 200 unwarmed and abandoned dogs and puppies, the Christmas Dogs Dinner Fund is a very real and deadly disease.

SAVING BOAT MOORED IN PETER'S

It is a very real and deadly disease, and it is still a very real and deadly disease.

IT'S MAGIC SKIING IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA FROM 289

For more details see page 22

SKI HOLIDAYS FOR 18-35s

For more details see page 22

UP AND AWAY TO JOHANNESBURG

For more details see page 22

FLIGHTS

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WINE AND DINE

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SHORT LETS

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JOSEPH COOPER

For more details see page 22

FACING THE MUSIC

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

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